

## Yemeni advance union date

ADEN (AP) — The Yemeni People's Republic has advanced the date of its two-stage union with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to May 26, scrapping interim steps, a spokesman said Wednesday. The May 26 proclamation would move union to a single day, but the spokesman said the move was made on condition of a referendum on the union. He said the move was made on condition of a referendum on the union. He said the move was made on condition of a referendum on the union.

# Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية (الراي)

## Khamenei: No direct talks with U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday ruled out negotiations with the United States to end 11 years of hostility. It was not known what the anti-American stance adopted by Khamenei, the country's top leader, meant for the possibility of early release for more Western hostages. Khamenei's statement, carried by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency, responded to a week-long debate in the Iranian press that followed an article by a senior government official calling for direct talks with the United States. The article, by Vice President Atollah Mohajeri, was published Thursday in the daily Ettehad. IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying: "I am against holding negotiations with the United States, and the Islamic republic government would not possibly do so without my consent." He added: "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States are either simple-minded or terrified." Government officials "are naturally against such a thing," Khamenei said.

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## Belgian deputy arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Belgian House of Representatives arrived Wednesday on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet a number of officials and his Jordanian counterpart. The Belgian deputy was received in the airport by Deputy Husni Al-Shayyab and the Belgian ambassador to Jordan.

## Officers protest Sudan executions

CAIRO (R) — A group of officers has submitted a note to Sudan's military ruler protesting against the execution of 29 officers in a swift military coup attempt, diplomats said Wednesday. The note, delivered earlier this week, was the first sign of dissent within the Sudanese military over the executions, which an Arab human rights group said were carried out following trials before emergency military tribunals lasting only two hours. Sudan has denied such a note was ever submitted. Police Monday used tear-gas and whips to disperse a demonstration by women relatives of the 29 executed officers, according to diplomats and witnesses. They said police dispersed smaller street protests also on Monday in Khartoum and in its twin city of Omdurman. There were no injuries or arrests made, they added.

## Algerian parties form alliance

ALGER (R) — Five leftist opposition parties in Algeria have formed an alliance to support each other during the country's first free elections set for June, party officials said Wednesday. Abdelhakim Adrid, president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), told Algerian radio the five parties would "work for the same political, economic and social orientations," and others were welcome to join Adrid said the coalition alliance was formed Tuesday by his branch of the PSD, the National Party for Solidarity and Development (PNSD), the Social Liberal Party, the National Renewal Front and the Popular Association for Unity and Action.

## Najibullah lifts state of emergency

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has ordered that a state of emergency giving special powers to his government will be lifted Friday, Kabul Radio said Wednesday. The broadcast said this would restore to parliament the powers delegated to the cabinet after the withdrawal of Soviet forces in February 1989.

## Bulgaria, Israel to restore ties

SOFIA (AP) — Diplomatic relations between Israel and Bulgaria are to be restored Thursday, the state news agency BTA reported only hours after Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived for this purpose Wednesday. "We have been waiting for this moment for 23 years, which is a very long time," Arens told reporters upon arrival at Sofia airport.

## Ferries fired on off Beirut coast

BEIRUT (AP) — Christian forces vying for dominance of the enclave north of Beirut fired at passenger ships serving ports controlled by the rival factions Wednesday amid renewed artillery exchanges. Police said neither the Cypriot ferry Sunny Boat, nor the Lebanese ship Virgin Butterfly was hit. Police said troops loyal to Michel Aoun fired a dozen howitzer shells at the Jounieh port, 20 kilometres north of Beirut in the early morning. They said the Sunny Boat which runs between the Cypriot port of Larnaca and Jounieh, controlled by militiamen of the Lebanese Forces, had docked at the harbour shortly before the barrage and was waiting for passengers to board for the return voyage. But when the first shells crashed in the waters around it, the ferry boat quickly sailed out to international waters and later headed empty for Larnaca.

## King meets patriarch, reiterates commitment to protecting holy places

# Jordan reaffirms Jerusalem pledge

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to protecting religious holy places in occupied Jerusalem and paid tribute to the resistance of the Greek Orthodox patriarch in the Holy City against Israeli moves in the Christian quarter of the Old City.

"I reaffirm that our deep concern over the Christian holy places in Jerusalem is a matter of principle, and we place the sanctity of the shrines above all political considerations," His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as saying in a meeting with Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, also quoted the King as paying tribute to the patriarch's "courageous stand and steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation authorities," and reaffirming Jordan's "commitment to the Muslim-Christian pact concluded under the reign of Omar Ben Al Khattab."

The most important element of the agreement, made in the seventh century, is a commitment to safeguarding and defending the freedom of worship and religion in Jerusalem.

"Israel and the enemies of the Arab Nation have been intent at destroying the context of this pact and we have been steadily resisting all such moves," the King told Patriarch Diodoros.

The patriarch, who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan, voiced the Greek Orthodox Church's appreciation of the King's support. "Our steadfastness in our struggle in the face of Israel's expansionist designs draws strength from the great support offered by King Hussein to his Christian brothers in Palestine," Petra quoted Patriarch Diodoros as saying.

The patriarch also paid tribute to Christian-Muslim unity and solidarity displayed in Palestine. He noted that "Muslims and Christians have been living together like one family over 1,400 years," Petra said. "The holy Muslim and Christian holy places are now prey to Israeli aggression," he added.

Specifically referring to the ongoing dispute between the church and Israeli government-supported settlers who have laid claim to a church-owned building in the Christian quarter of Arab Jerusalem, the patriarch said that the issue was a "political question and therefore all should be closely united in their efforts to provide protection to the holy places and liberate the Holy Land from Israeli occupation."

The theme of inter-faith unity was also the focus of remarks made by the patriarch in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

He said such unity was the very essence of efforts to counter Israeli moves to bring about demographic changes in occupied Jerusalem and Palestinians of both faiths were determined to continue their united stand against the occupation power's plans.

"It is a fact that every member of the population, irrespective of faith and denomination, supports the church in its confrontation with Jewish settlers who occupied the church-owned St. John's Hospice in the Christian quarter of Arab Jerusalem earlier this month, triggering one of the most fierce controversies over the Holy City," said Patriarch Diodoros, the senior-most Greek Orthodox clergyman in the Holy Land.

The patriarch described the issue as "not exactly a simple dispute over church property" since the settlers who occupied the building on April 11 "were backed by (Israeli) political forces."

Warning that the Israeli plan "has serious repercussions and grave consequences not only to the Christian and Muslim communities but also the entire civilised world," the patriarch said the church was in contact with all international churches and other communities to foil the Jewish state's moves in the city, revered as the holiest by the Christians and which houses the third holiest shrine of Islam.

The patriarch's reference was to the recent disclosure by the Israeli housing ministry that it had given \$1.8 million to finance the purchase of St.

# Mubarak, Assad meet; Iraq-Syria media hits halt

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

DAMASCUS — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on a groundbreaking visit to Syria, and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks Wednesday on issues believed to include Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and prospects for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

"As the Egyptian leader flew to Damascus, reports from Baghdad said that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had managed to bring about a decision by Iraq and Syria to call a halt in their media attacks against each other. There were also signs that both were living up to the decision."

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khlif arrived in the Iraqi capital, which has offered to host an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the most pressing issues facing the Arab World, and his talks there were expected to focus on prospects for convening the summit, which hinges on the outcome of Mubarak's talks with Assad.

"I see in the return of reconciliation among the Arab countries a vital and necessary step to counter the international bloc," the Syrian news agency SANA quoted Mubarak as saying on the eve of his visit.

Syrian state radio, in an unusual move for arriving leaders, gave live coverage to the visit.

"The issue of countering the Zionist danger, which is threatening the present and future of the whole Arab Nation will undoubtedly be discussed," Syria's ruling Baath Party newspaper said Wednesday.

"The absence of a solid Arab position has negatively affected all Arab causes, especially the cause of the Palestinian people," said Al Baath.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by the Associated Press said Mubarak carried to Damascus a "paper" as a blueprint for a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement.

They said it proposed a meeting in Cairo between the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers in the presence of Egyptian foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, as a starting point for dialogue.

Abdul Meguid said in Damascus that "we expect good results" from the presidential summit, "not only for Egypt and Syria but also for all the Arab countries and for peace and stability in the area."

"We're extremely happy with this visit and today's talks are for the benefit of the entire Arab Nation," said Assad's spokesman, Jibril Khourieh.

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat said in the United Arab Emirates

Wednesday that efforts were under way to reconcile Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But he did not say who was involved in the mediation.

An Arab diplomat in Baghdad quoted by Reuters said Iraq and Syria had agreed to stop media attacks against each other as from Wednesday.

The diplomat told Reuters the decision was taken by Baghdad and Damascus at the request of Arafat.

All Iraqi newspapers appeared Wednesday without any anti-Syrian comment, unusual since the rival Syrian and Iraqi factions of the Baath Party split more than 20 years ago.

"Arafat has guaranteed what (should) be a unanimous pan-Arab agreement to hold the summit in Baghdad," the diplomat was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Arafat left Baghdad Tuesday after a visit to Iraq in the course of an Arab tour to promote the idea of a Baghdad summit, probably later this month.

Iraqi President Hussein has backed the summit call to discuss what he termed "grave threats facing pan-Arab security."

The surprise Baghdad-Damascus agreement on halting press attacks came only two days after Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassim told reporters Iraq would have nothing to do with the Syrian president.

Baghdad sources quoted by the AP also said President Hussein has ordered the official media to stop the daily anti-Syria propaganda campaign.

Syrian newspapers Wednesday contained no criticism of Iraq.

A large crowd gathered at Damascus airport to welcome Mubarak, the first Egyptian president to visit Syria in 12 years after a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1977 immediately after Egypt's move to enter a separate peace treaty with Israel. Diplomatic ties were restored in March, and Mubarak's visit to Syria was seen as putting a seal on the two countries' reconciliation.

A red carpet and a warm hug by Assad greeted Mubarak at Damascus airport.

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's white minority government and the African National Congress (ANC) began their first preliminary talks Wednesday with both sides expressing hopes for peace and an end to apartheid.

"The time has come to end apartheid," ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela told reporters as the talks began at a mansion in the grounds of President F.W. de Klerk's official Cape Town residence.

He said the three-day talks, the first official meeting between the government and its chief opponent, "end the terrible tradition of dialogue between master and servant, the terrible tradition which we have to overcome."

"We are going to these negotiations in the hope and confidence that something fruitful will come of it," Mandela said. "We are all going to these discussions in a serious frame of mind and in the hope that the expectations of all South Africans as well as the international community will be realised."

Arrest procedure."

Palestinian sources reported earlier that a second Palestinian was critically wounded in the pre-dawn shooting but later said he was arrested unharmed.

Palestinians said both were activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. Their slogans called for a commercial strike in Khan Younis Thursday in memory of three Arabs killed by troops in the Jabalya refugee camp Thursday.

Some 130 Palestinians were shot and wounded in the same clash on the feast of 'Eid Al Fitr. The Israelis took Sakka's body, still masked, in a white Peugeot 404, with distinctive licence plates

issued to Arabs, they said.

Palestinians said sporadic clashes erupted in Khan Younis after the killing. The army sent in reinforcements backed by a military spotter plane but troops refrained from shooting, they said.

Shakka was a university student of Islamic law.

An Israeli human rights group said Wednesday soldiers raiding a West Bank village grabbed two Palestinians, smeared their faces with paint and forced them to sing a Hebrew song.

An army spokesman said military police were investigating the case of alleged abuse reported by the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The Human Rights Centre, known as B'tselem in Hebrew, said the number of Palestinians killed by troops has decreased from an average 25 per cent in the first two years of the uprising to about 10 per cent in the past six months.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday meets Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros and other clergymen (Petra photo)

# No move to abolish Supply Ministry or lift subsidies

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — There is no government decision to abolish or change the status of the Ministry of Supply or to lift government subsidies on basic food commodities, an official source said Wednesday.

"The Ministry of Supply has a very important role to play and there is no decision whatsoever to abolish it or change its status," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. By the same token, the official said, "there is no decision to reduce or lift subsidies of basic commodities," and he pointed out that the amount for subsidies to support real prices has already been allocated in the budget.

Recent reports had suggested that the government was under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to lift its food subsidies with a view to reducing the Kingdom's 1990 budget deficit of JD 199 million. The total amount of budget allocation for subsidies for fiscal year 1990 is JD 60 million, and economists expect it to go up if the government were to keep a

tight ceiling on prices of basic foodstuffs despite expected rises in international prices.

Other sources said part of the subsidies could be lifted before the end of the year. The sources could not specify which areas of the present spread of subsidies could be affected by the expected move.

The official said Jordan had not received any substantial amount of Arab financial assistance during the year, but expressed confidence that the aid, projected at \$360 million in the 1990 budget, would be forthcoming.

"We will, I repeat, we will receive Arab financial assistance," he reaffirmed. "We are going to receive some before July," he said without disclosing the amount expected.

"Signs are good after His Majesty the King's recent visit to Saudi Arabia," he added, denying unconfirmed reports that Jordan had already received an amount ranging between \$50 million to \$100 million from Riyadh.

The official also dismissed speculation that the Jordanian dinar could be further devalued. "We can categorically

deny that any such moves are planned," he said. "The dinar has stabilised at the present (exchange) rate, and there is no need" for any devaluation, he stressed.

The official confirmed that there could be a limited cabinet change after noting that Planning Minister Awmi Masri had submitted his resignation. "There could be some limited changes in the wake of the resignation, but I do not expect any major reshuffle at all," he said.

According to the official, the government is studying applications for licensing new magazines and other publications, which could be licensed only after the proposed national charter is completed and ratified. However, he said, "political and economy-oriented publications could be licensed only after further study." The official also disclosed that an amended press and publications law had been drafted and is currently under study by the minister of information, but he declined to make any specific comments on the highlights of the proposed legislation.

# Palestinian shot dead in Gaza

KHAN YOUNIS, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Plainclothes Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday as he wrote graffiti on mosque walls hailing Arabs who died fighting Israel, Palestinian witnesses said.

"Go forward martyrs" conveyed "two activists of the Palestinian uprising scrawled in the town of Khan Younis before three security men in a commandeered Arab car opened fire, witnesses told Reuters.

Official military sources said an army force shot dead a masked Palestinian identified as Abdul Latif Sakka, 23, after he refused orders to halt during a "routine

arrest procedure."

Palestinians said sporadic clashes erupted in Khan Younis after the killing. The army sent in reinforcements backed by a military spotter plane but troops refrained from shooting, they said.

Shakka was a university student of Islamic law.

An Israeli human rights group said Wednesday soldiers raiding a West Bank village grabbed two Palestinians, smeared their faces with paint and forced them to sing a Hebrew song.

An army spokesman said military police were investigating the case of alleged abuse reported by the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The Human Rights Centre, known as B'tselem in Hebrew, said the number of Palestinians killed by troops has decreased from an average 25 per cent in the first two years of the uprising to about 10 per cent in the past six months.

territories.

The Jerusalem-based centre also criticised the army practice of seizing Arab houses for observation points. Its monthly report said troops frequently damaged property, defecated or dumped garbage on roofs and stairways and violated Arab customs concerning modesty of dress.

The Human Rights Centre, known as B'tselem in Hebrew, said the number of Palestinians killed by troops has decreased from an average 25 per cent in the first two years of the uprising to about 10 per cent in the past six months.

# Sarid: Shamir plans 14 new settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A leftist Israeli legislator accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday of planning at least 14 new Jewish settlements on the occupied territories once he forms a right-wing government.

"I have details of 14 planned settlements. It could be 15 or 16. He may deny it but I have the details," said Yossi Sarid of the opposition Citizens Rights Movement, who last month exposed covert government funding of a Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's Christian quarter.

Shamir, trying to form a coalition of rightist and religious parties, Wednesday met far-right political leaders who have demanded more Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite world condemnation.

The issue could further strain relations with the United States. Shamir's "national unity" cabinet fell in March over his reluctance to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever peace talks with Palestinians.

The small rightist parties —

Tehiya (Renaissance), Moledet (Homeland) and Tsomet (Crossroads) — were demanding that the new government reject Secretary of State James Baker's initiative outright, Israel radio said.

In an interview this week, Shamir said he regretted Israel could not afford massive Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because of financial needs for a record influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Sarid said right-wing and religious politicians claiming a Biblical "birthright" to the occupied land would seek unbridled settlement now that Shamir was no longer constrained by sharing power with the dovish Labour Party.

"Shamir had his hands tied by Labour in the coalition. This time the rightists will insist as part of a deal to help Shamir form a government," he told Reuters.

Shamir said Monday he would seek a narrow centre-right coalition and not ask Labour to join.

# Lithuania seeks French, W. German mediation

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis Wednesday appealed to the leaders of France and West Germany to help persuade Moscow to start talks with the breakaway republic on its independence bid.

In a message read to the Lithuanian parliament, Landsbergis also expressed his willingness to freeze "some of the effects" of laws bolstering the republic's March 11 declaration of independence.

But he said the declaration itself was sacred.

Landsbergis's letters were in response to a joint message from French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last Thursday urging patience and caution on Lithuania in its independence bid.

"The main point is to ask them to convey to the Soviet government that we really want to sit down at the negotiating table," said Rita Dapkus, an official at the Lithuanian parliament's independence office.

"We might be willing to freeze some of the effects of our resolutions," she said.

But Dapkus said the letter explicitly stated that "all questions are negotiable except for the March 11 declaration itself."

The text was due to be released after the letter to Mitterrand had been handed over in Paris later Wednesday. The other letter was due to be sent to Kohl through the West German embassy in Moscow.

Landsbergis told the parliament Wednesday the two leaders asked "for our agreement to suspend those consequences which are more unacceptable to the Soviet Union," according to Eduardas Potashnikas, a Lithuanian television editor.

The parliament, known as the supreme council, took no formal vote on Landsbergis's letter, Tuskenis said.

He said the chamber offered no objections. Potashnikas also said the chamber backed the letter.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has declared the independence declaration invalid.

# Pretoria, ANC start talks

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's white minority government and the African National Congress (ANC) began their first preliminary talks Wednesday with both sides expressing hopes for peace and an end to apartheid.

"The time has come to end apartheid," ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela told reporters as the talks began at a mansion in the grounds of President F.W. de Klerk's official Cape Town residence.

He said the three-day talks, the first official meeting between the government and its chief opponent, "end the terrible tradition of dialogue between master and servant, the terrible tradition which we have to overcome."

"We are going to these negotiations in the hope and confidence that something fruitful will come of it," Mandela said. "We are all going to these discussions in a serious frame of mind and in the hope that the expectations of all South Africans as well as the international community will be realised."

The talks were arranged to eliminate obstacles to formal negotiations on a new constitution and the end of white rule.

The subject of violence on both sides was expected to be a major point of discussion.

The ANC was banned in 1960, and began a sabotage and guerrilla campaign the next year under Mandela's leadership. Last February, de Klerk legalised the ANC, its military wing and 58 other organisations, and freed Mandela and other ANC leaders from life prison terms.

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## Reed reportedly held with other Western hostages in Lebanon

WIESBADEN, West Germany (R) — Former American hostage Frank Reed was held with up to six other Westerners at times during his 43 months in captivity in Lebanon, his wife said Wednesday.

After a reunion with her husband at a U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden Tuesday, Syrian-born Fahima (Fifi) Reed also said he was angry "with everybody" that he and other hostages were held for so long.

Mrs. Reed told a news conference he had been moved frequently and was held sometimes alone, sometimes with five or six other hostages.

She could not identify the other hostages but confirmed her husband had seen American journalist Terry Anderson, the longest-held Western hostage in Lebanon, at some point during his captivity.

Reed, 57, who was released in Beirut Monday and flown to West Germany, is believed to have left behind in Lebanon 15 other Western hostages, six of them American. Anderson, an Associated Press correspondent, was kidnapped in March 1985.

"He was sure the others were all out and when he found out they weren't he was very, very upset," his wife said.

"He is very angry. He is angry with everybody for the length of time that he was kept and the length of time the others were kept and (because) the others are still there too."

She was unclear about details and later appeared to correct herself, saying: "He thought most of them were released."

Mrs. Reed avoided a direct answer when asked if her husband believed Washington could have done more to secure his release.

"Everybody should have done something. He was angry with everybody," she said.

Describing their reunion, she added: "There was a moment of complete silence. None of us said a word. It was just hugging, hugging. I thought 'it's real and I don't believe it'."

Mrs. Reed said she had not discussed the details of his captivity. "I let him talk about the things he wanted to talk about. He wanted to talk and talk and talk. To tell the truth, to see him

talking that much, I got tired myself."

Reed was kept bound and blindfolded almost continuously throughout his captivity, but the blindfold was occasionally removed for around an hour and a half in the evening, she said.

"He refused to watch TV or read books. Those things are so trivial compared with the freedom that's been swept away," she added.

He had been well fed. Asked if he had been well-treated, she replied: "Some days. Many of the guards were nice to him. He did not know who his kidnappers were."

Reed, headmaster of the Lebanese International School, was abducted on Sept. 9, 1986. He was freed by a group called the Organisation of Islamic Dawn. The group said he was carrying a message for the U.S. government.

A group called Friends of John McCarthy quoted Reed Wednesday, saying British hostage McCarthy and Irish hostage Brian Keenan are well.

Reed telephoned McCarthy's father, Pat McCarthy, and the

## Eritrean war enters decisive stage

By Reid G. Miller  
The Associated Press

MASSAWA, Ethiopia (AP) — Day and night, heavy artillery and tank barrages thunder along a 150-kilometre front in the decisive battle of the Eritrean civil war. Africa's longest-running conflict.

The antagonists are the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which for almost 30 years has fought for the independence of Ethiopia's northernmost province of Eritrea.

So fierce are the exchanges on the Ghinda front that their distant rumble is clearly heard in Massawa, a strategic Red Sea port 60 kilometres away.

The rebels appear to have the upper hand in a struggle in which each side has a different goal.

The government's immediate objective is to retake Massawa. It was captured by the Eritreans on Feb. 13 three days after they launched a major new offensive in their long war of secession.

The rebels seek something more — the capture of their ancient, hallowed provincial capital of Asmara and the end to nearly three decades of conflict that has cost tens of thousands of lives.

The Ghinda front straddles the only road from Asmara to Massawa, a two-lane ribbon of asphalt running 100 kilometres from the provincial capital to this port city, one of only two Ethiopian outlets to the Red Sea.

In a rare pronouncement on

the progress of the war, the government in Addis Ababa acknowledged last Friday that the battle had "reached a decisive final stage."

Mid-February, shortly after the rebels took Massawa, President Mengistu told parliament that failure to recapture Massawa would mean the loss of his 2nd Revolutionary Army, the loss of Asmara and the loss of Eritrea to the rebels.

That now seems likely.

Mengistu's 2nd Army, more than 100,000 strong, is surrounded in the highlands around Asmara. Its only remaining supply route is a tenuous air link from government-held territory far to the south and east.

Another major insurgent force, the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF), has tied up Mengistu's remaining armies in an offensive that has taken the Tigreans to within 160 kilometres of the capital of Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian government claims, and the Eritrean rebels freely acknowledge, that the two insurgent offensives have been coordinated. The Tigrean rebels began their last August, sweeping south and west and out of their stronghold of Tigre province, just south of Eritrea, into the adjoining provinces of Wollo and Gondar.

Isayas Afewerki, the general secretary of the Eritrean rebel movement, says his strategy is to bleed Mengistu's 2nd Army dry on the Ghinda front, then take the offensive.

"There is no hope for the Dergue (government) to take

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Khamenei against talks with U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke out Wednesday against the notion of direct contacts with the United States. "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States are either simple-minded or terrified," the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Khamenei as saying in a speech to teachers. He was referring to a row that broke out last week over the government's attitude towards Washington amid efforts to release Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon. Vice-President Atallah Mohajerani argued in an article published in the Ettelaat newspaper Thursday that Iran should not deprive itself of the benefits of direct contact with the United States. Hardliners attacked his article as a sell-out to the "great Satan" — the late Ayatollah Khomeini's phrase for the United States — and Tehran University students held a rally to condemn it. Mohajerani acknowledged in a rejoinder Tuesday that his article was not inspired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani or anyone else. But he defended its content and said Rafsanjani approved of public debate over the issue.

#### Kelly holds talks in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly discussed bilateral ties and the Lebanese and Middle East conflicts Tuesday night with Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said. Algeria plays a leading diplomatic role in Arab efforts to end the 15-year-old civil war in Lebanon and enjoys wide influence with key players in the Middle East conflict. Commercial ties between the two countries are growing largely due to Algerian imports of U.S. wheat and U.S. imports of Algerian gas. Kelly, appointed a year ago, is on a familiarisation tour of North Africa, the spokeswoman said.

#### Moroccan prince visits Gulf states

RABAT (R) — Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, elder son of King Hassan of Morocco, and Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali left Rabat Wednesday for Abu Dhabi on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, an official source said. They will also pay official visit to Kuwait and Iraq.

#### 2 Germans questioned over Rabta fire

ROME (AP) — Libya's official news agency said Wednesday that two West Germans were being interrogated in connection with the mysterious fire at a Libyan chemical plant in March. West German companies had helped build the plant, which the United States claims produced poison gas. Libya says the facility in Rabta, 60 miles southwest of Tripoli, produces pharmaceuticals. Immediately after the March 15 fire, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi had threatened to retaliate against West Germany if its agents had set the blaze. West Germany denied any responsibility. The Libyan News Agency (JANA) identified the Germans as a company executive and a technician for the same firm. The report, monitored in Rome, was attributed by JANA to "sources at the General People's Committee of Justice." In West Germany, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said he was checking on the report. The West German embassy in Tripoli, reached by telephone from Rome, said no officials were available for comment.

## Western Sudan faces severe food shortage

KHARTOUM (AP) — A poor harvest, inadequate livestock and a continuing flood of refugees from Sudan's civil war and fighting in Chad have caused serious hunger problems in western Sudan.

Officials said they fear widespread starvation in coming weeks among the 4.5 million people in Darfur, the sprawling mostly desert region in the country's extreme west.

Peter Orat, Sudan's minister for relief and refugee affairs, discussed the problem Tuesday with representatives of Western donor organisations. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Wednesday they agreed to deliver urgently 3,750 tons of food to the area.

But the government's early warning system, a newsletter that forecasts relief needs, said the production shortfall in Darfur will total 51,000 tons.

Sudan's military leader, Lt. Gen. Omar al-Bashir, promised during a tour of Darfur last November to provide 50,000 tons of sorghum, the Sudanese staple. He has not delivered, apparently because of lack of trucks and fuel.

In February, the British relief organisation, Oxfam reported in a survey that Darfur faces "serious problems in terms of food, and malnutrition should be expected in the coming months."

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission said serious shortages already are occurring.

## Dole questions housing guarantees for Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole Tuesday questioned plans to provide \$400 million in housing loan guarantees for Israel, complaining that they would be costly to the United States and amounted to a "blank cheque."

Dole, who has clashed several times in the past with Israel and its supporters, said the United States should press Israel for information on how the housing loans would be used.

He made his comments in the Senate, where criticism of Israel and of U.S. aid to the Jewish state is rare.

The loan guarantees, contained in a spending bill approved by the Senate Tuesday, are to help Israel raise loans to build housing for a flood of new immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Dole said he supported the concept but asked why the usual loan fee for such guarantees had been partially waived for Israel. He said he had received an informal estimate from an official of the Agency for International Development that the waiver would cost the United States \$25 million to \$30 million.

Dole also cited estimates he said he had received from the congressional budget office that in the long run the guarantees would cost the United States more than \$400 million in U.S. aid and other expenditure.

He also said that because the guarantees contained no conditions, they could be used to support luxury housing in Israel instead of homes for low-income families.

Dole suggested that Israel should be required to remove tariffs on U.S.-supplied housing building materials.

"This is, in effect, a blank cheque in terms of how the loans can be used in supporting a housing programme," Dole said.

He said Congress should require the administration to seek information about Israel's plans.

Earlier this year, Dole upset Israel's supporters with a suggestion that aid to Israel — the largest U.S. aid recipient at \$3 billion a year — and other major recipients be cut and the money switched to Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

He also criticised a recent congressional resolution asserting that Jerusalem should be Israel's capital, saying his support of it had been a mistake.

## Rebels claim sinking Ethiopian warship

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Eritrean rebels, waging their largest offensive in 29 years of war, claim they sank an Ethiopian navy vessel in an attack on a small Red Sea port.

In a clandestine radio broadcast Wednesday, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said a rebel "naval force" sank the ship Kaleb at Tio Port, halfway between Massawa and Assab, the country's two major ports.

The broadcast, monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, gave no further description of the ship. It was not possible to independently verify the rebels' claim and the government rarely comments on broadcasts by the insurgents.

The Eritreans launched the offensive Feb. 8 and three days later captured the port of Massawa, gateway to Ethiopia's northernmost province of Eritrea.

Since the fighting began, the rebels have reported a series of battlefield victories, including sinking or capturing 12 of the government's naval fleet of two frigates and 21 patrol boats.

The rebels are waging a three-decade-old war for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony annexed to the Horn of Africa nation in 1962 by the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Ethiopian rebels said Monday they had captured a strategic garrison town in northern Ethiopia and fighting was still going on.

The radio named the garrison as Diga, northwest of Adi Keyih, which was captured by the rebels last Wednesday.

The radio said Diga was captured a day before the seizure of Adi Keyih. "Fierce fighting is raging," the radio said.

Manouchehr Fadavi Ardestani, studying for his doctorate in mechanical engineering in Manchester, was the 10th Iranian ordered out of Britain this year.

The Home Office said his deportation was ordered on April 26 and he left Heathrow Airport for Tehran Tuesday night.

"He was deported on grounds

## London expels another Iranian

LONDON (AP) — Britain has expelled an Iranian graduate student as a security risk, the Home Office said Wednesday.

Manouchehr Fadavi Ardestani, studying for his doctorate in mechanical engineering in Manchester, was the 10th Iranian ordered out of Britain this year.

The Home Office said his deportation was ordered on April 26 and he left Heathrow Airport for Tehran Tuesday night.

"He was deported on grounds

## 7 executives held in U.K. over alleged Iraqi 'super gun' sale

LONDON (AP) — Customs officials have arrested seven executives from two British companies under investigation for allegedly selling parts of a "super gun" to Iraq, the Customs and Excise Department said Wednesday.

Fourteen executives from the two firms, Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd. and Walter Somers Ltd., were picked up Tuesday for questioning.

"Seven men have been arrested, were detained overnight and are continuing to assist with inquiries. The other seven were released, one of whom will return today (Wednesday) to give further assistance," said a customs spokesman, who spoke on condition he was not identified.

Eight giant tubes manufactured by Sheffield Forgemasters were seized by British customs officers on April 12 at the port of Middlesbrough and military experts later said they could be used as the barrel of a giant gun.

The Iraq government and the company have said they were intended for a petrochemical plant. The company has said it had government permission to sell the pipes to Iraq.

Walter Somers supplied Iraq in

last year on security grounds. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, reporting Ardestani's arrival in Tehran Wednesday morning, said "the British government once again demonstrates its hostility against the Islamic revolution by expelling another Iranian Muslim student."

Ironically, London has repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran (to) help secure release of British hostages in Lebanon.

maker Richard Caform said the contracts the executives were being questioned about "were cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry."

He demanded the government answer a series of questions about the affair.

Miller said he had evidence supporting both firms' claims of being innocent.

Britain imposed an arms embargo on Iran and Iraq during their eight-year war and has not lifted it because no formal cease-fire has been signed.

Customs officers have said the tubes built by Sheffield Forgemasters could be assembled to make a 131-foot (40-metre) long gun barrel with a 39-inch (99-cm) bore.

The company has said that sections of tubing have already been delivered to Iraq, and there has been speculation that an even longer barrel may have been intended.

A week before the April 12 seizure of the steel tubes, Iraq placed an urgent order with Walter Somers for a component that the company fears may have been an aiming device. The order was refused.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	Koran
15:20	Programme review
15:40	Children programme
17:10	Book of Adventure
18:00	News for the Deaf
18:20	Religious programme
19:00	Health programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:20	Arabic film
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:40	Motivations
18:10	Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30	La Chance aux chansons
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Cosby Show
21:10	NBA Basketball
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Those who left behind"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:18	Fajr
05:44	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
14:12	'Asr
19:21	Maghrib
20:47	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 810740	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Ajam	894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr	849562
Dr. Fakher Al Babieci	625778
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er	791405
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	778334
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoki pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
IBRID:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sabahin	(—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khamis Al Ja'bari	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	95417
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Police	199
Fire Brigade	611111, 637777
Recruiting Office	891228
Blood Bank	771013
Highway Police	845022
Traffic Police	966390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	842362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palastine, Shamsi	664174/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	645045
Al-Shamir Hospital	667220/9
The Islamic, Abadi	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi	664164/6
Islamic, Al-Mushajra	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	775112/6
Army, Marja	891617/5
Queen Abla Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
IBRID:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	842362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palastine, Shamsi	664174/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	645045
Al-Shamir Hospital	667220/9
The Islamic, Abadi	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi	664164/6
Islamic, Al-Mushajra	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	775112/6
Army, Marja	891617/5
Queen Abla Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Dhahran (RJ)
06:40	Riyadh (RJ)
06:50	New Delhi (RJ)
07:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:10	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:20	Kuwait (RJ)
07:30	Cairo, Asmara (RJ)
07:40	London (RJ)
07:50	Luxembourg (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)
08:10	Baghdad (RJ)
08:20	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:30	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:15	Rome (RJ)
<b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b>	
06:55	Baghdad (IA)
07:05	Kuwait (LH)
07:15	Sanaa (LH)
07:25	Kuwait (KU)
07:35	Riyadh (SV)
07:45	Muscat, Muscat (GP)
07:55	Dubai (EK)
08:05	Bahrain (TK)
08:15	Amsterdam (KL)
08:25	Frankfurt (LH)
08:35	Zurich, Larnaca (RS)
08:45	Cairo (MS)
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Aqaba (RJ)
11:45	Rome (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
12:15	Tunis, Paris (RJ)
12:30	Larnaca (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Kuwait (RJ)
13:15	Baghdad (RJ)
13:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:00	Dubai (RJ)
14:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:30	Dhahran (RJ)
14:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
15:00	Damascus (AF)
<b>MARKET PRICES</b>	
Upper/lower price in \$/kg per kg	
Almonds	550 / 500
Apple	480 / 400
Banana	450 / 400
Banana (Mekamara)	400 / 320
Beans	450 / 400
Broad beans	240 / 200
Cabbages (large)	50 / 40
Cabbages (small)	30 / 20
Carrots	120 / 100
Cauliflower	170 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 180
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	220 / 150
Garlic	500 / 450
Grapes	280 / 220
Lettuce (per box)	150 / 100
Melons	320 / 280
Marrow (large)	100 / 50
Marrow (small)	200 / 150
Onion (dry)	280 / 240
Onion (green)	200 / 150
Orange (Shamsi)	340 / 300
Orange (Shamsi)	380 / 340
Pears	250 / 200
Pepper (hot)	360 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	360 / 300
Potatoes	220 / 200
Raddish	150 / 100
Sage	450 / 400
Spinach	200 / 150
Tomatoes	280 / 240
Watermelon	360 / 220

FOR FRIDAY	
JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	Koran
15:20	Programme review
15:40	Children programme
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05:44	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
14:12	'Asr
19:21	Maghrib
20:47	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 810740	



## Queen receives St. John Ophthalmic Hospital group

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday received a delegation from the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital of Jerusalem in London, which is a charitable foundation of the Grand Priory of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Her Majesty Queen Noor is the honorary president and patron of the Friends of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital of Jerusalem, and has taken part in many of the foundation's fund-raising activities. The proceeds of such activities are used in financing the hospital's mission of providing screening and eye-care to villages and rural areas in the West Bank, including refugee camps in Gaza and Rafah.

## Cabinet studies ways to control imports/exports of live sheep

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet is currently studying the prospect of reducing customs fees imposed on the importation of live sheep which now amounts to JD 8 per head, according to a statement by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat.

"Should the council approve the idea or should the duty be altogether scrapped, the Ministry of Agriculture will request the Prime Minister to allow local stock breeders to start exporting sheep without any restrictions, but exported sheep should not be less than 30 kilograms per head," Arabiyat said.

Arabiyat said the country should have a specific law to control the process of import of live sheep in order to provide protection to the local breeders. The Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply, had lately resorted to imports of sheep from Australia and other countries to meet the growing demand of fresh meat in the wake of a halt in shipments of fresh meat from Romania and diminishing supplies from Bulgaria and Turkey.

## Army veterans to visit Jordan, W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing a union of British army veterans who served in Palestine during the British mandate period is due to arrive Friday for a two-week visit to Jordan and the West Bank. During the visit, the delegation will visit several historic and archaeological sites. The union, which includes British officers who served in Palestine during the British Mandate and World War I and II, aims at strengthening its members' relations with the states where they spent long service periods.

## Lack of quorum defers first session of friendship society

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The founding members of the Jordanian-American Friendship Society held their first meeting Wednesday and agreed there was more groundwork to be done before electing their first executive committee.

The members argued that by-laws of the society, as approved by the Ministry of Interior, would not allow the group to be active enough to influence the American decision-making process on the political level.

"One of our main objectives is to clarify our national and regional problems to the American people and administration. If we stick to the society's current by-laws, we would be no more than a charitable society," one of the members said at the meeting.

This, however, was not the only reason for postponing the inaugural session until May 22, since only 15 out of the 27 founding members attended the meeting. Members agreed that more founders should attend before an executive committee could be formed in order to change the by-laws.

The society was founded with the aim of developing cultural, social and artistic cooperation and enhance the spirit of understanding between the peoples of Jordan and the United States of America.

In his opening remarks, Issa Okla, a founding member, told the participants of efforts exerted

by several members to contact American media establishments to enlist their help in creating awareness among the American public of the Middle East problems and dispel misconceptions about the region.

"We all know the importance of the American position on regional issues and we felt the need to improve our media image and enhance our influence in the United States," Okla said.

He added that during their contacts with several American newspapers and the American public at large "we found that the American public does not know anything about us or our problems."

The 15 attending members decided to hold their next meeting hoping it will be attended by the remaining 12 members who were unable to participate in Wednesday's meeting.

The founders include: Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Marwan Al Qasem, Hassan Abu Ghazaleh, Abdallah Ensour, Fadel Ali Al Ehsid, Dr. Fawzi Ta'imeh, Mohammad Ahmad Hamdan, Abdul Rahim Al Gbbari, Dr. Daoud Hanania, Mohammad Kamal, Faleh Al Gharaybeh, Taher Kanan, Fayer Tarawneh, Issa Okla Abu Dayeh, Khalid Abu Hassan, Raji Shkhar, Affi Al Hassan, Dr. Alfred Dayat, Dr. Rajai Muasher, Dr. Ramzi Muasher, Ali Farid Al Sa'd, Ziad Al Homsi, Khaled Mohammad Kanan, George Hawatmeh, Adnan Bayouna, Jamal Al Sarayrah and Edmond Adam.



Prince Faisal inaugurates golf club

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Tuesday inaugurated Al Bisharat Golf Club. Prince Faisal commended the club and said it equals international clubs in terms of organisation; he expressed hope that this sport would become popular in Jordan. He said the establishment of such playground will enhance relations between the Jordanian people and the diplomatic corps working in the Kingdom. The prince attended matches organised in the opening ceremony and distributed awards to winners in the matches (Petra photo).

## Jordan to attend ACC housing talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a meeting of the Arab ministers of housing and public works in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups the two countries as well as Iraq and North Yemen.

Talks will focus mainly on the poultry industry and ways to benefit from Egypt's expertise in this industry as well as topics concerning the Egyptian-Jordanian holding company.

Earlier Wednesday Arabiyat opened a meeting of a joint ACC agricultural committee by paying tribute to the close cooperation among the ACC countries in agriculture.

Arabiyat said nevertheless that the volume of exchanged agricultural products among the ACC member states was far less than the aspired goal.

The Cabinet also said Jordan would take part in a ministerial committee meeting entrusted with examining the Arab satellite communications organisation's agreement due to open in Algiers on May 12.

The Jordanian delegation to the three-day meeting will be held by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Ibrahim Ayoub.

According to the Cabinet, Jordan will take part in the eighth meeting of the Near East-North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation meeting

which is scheduled to open in Marakesh on May 8.

The director-general of the Agricultural Credit Corporation will lead Jordan's team to the two-day meeting.

Furthermore, the Cabinet has approved a technical cooperation agreement between Jordan and the West German Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) under which the latter will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development.

In the first year of the three-year agreement, KAF will provide DM 100,000 worth of technical assistance which will benefit social development schemes in the Kingdom.

The government also announced its approval of an air transport agreement between Jordan and Canada, and authorised the director general of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to sign the agreement in Amman on behalf of the government.

The Cabinet's statement announced that Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababseh would visit Switzerland to discuss with the International Olympic Committee cooperation with the Jordanian National Olympic Committee. No date was named for the visit.

## Conference to review medicine production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth Jordanian pharmacists conference opened in Amman Wednesday and heard a call for a new national pharmaceutical strategy that would cater for the needs of all citizens and at the same time work in line with the ongoing economic restructuring programme in the Kingdom.

The call was contained in the main working paper submitted to the three-day conference by Jordanian pharmacist Nizar Jaradneh who chairs the Arab Federation of Producers of Arab Pharmaceutical Products and Medical Appliances.

The paper, entitled "The Pharmaceutical Policy of Jordan," said: "The present economic crisis in the Kingdom makes it imperative on us to reexamine the pharmaceutical and medicine situation in Jordan and adopt a new clear policy that would conform to the present restructuring programme and help reduce the deficit in Jordan's balance of payments by increasing exports and reducing imports."

"High quality medicine should be made available to all citizens and Jordanians should be encouraged to use locally made medicine," Jaradneh said.

His paper presented several proposals designed to help Jordan acquire a clear pharmaceutical strategy.

The conference was formally opened by Health Minister Mohammad Adduh Al Zaben who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"The Ministry of Health has succeeded through its close cooperation with the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) in going a long way towards meeting the national needs of medicines," the minister said.

"The two sides have cooperated in the process of registering locally manufactured and imported medicines, in controlling dangerous drugs and in organising the local pharmacy market by fixing prices of medicine and making available most needed pharmaceutical products," Zaben said.

He said that health ministry had set up a special laboratory to control the quality of all drug products and had been introducing incentives for increasing exports.

"Above all JPA's close cooperation with the Ministry of Health has resulted in creating new jobs for Jordanians and attracted national capital to be invested in pharmaceutical industries," he said.

JPA President Tayseer Al Himsi addressed the conference referring to the association's continued endeavours in support of the Palestinian pharmacists in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Hashem Al Zaher, secretary-general of the Arab Pharmacists Federation and Abdul Mawm Al Khoul, chairman of a committee which prepared the conference addressed the meeting which was organised by the JPA and is attended by 500 delegates from Jordan and other Arab countries.

A total of 18 working papers dealing with a wide variety of topics, mainly focusing on the medicine industry and marketing in the Arab World, are to be reviewed by the delegates.

The conference, being held under the slogan: "Medicine between national industry and imports," is expected to deal with the question of pricing imported drugs in Jordan in the light of on-going disputes between the Ministry of Health and (JPA) over prices of medicine.

## Unions plan 'silent march' in May for Palestinian rights

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the morning of May 14, thousands of people will start marching from the monument of the unknown soldier in south Shuneh in the Jordan Valley, heading towards the King Hussein bridge demanding the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. According to Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, member of the popular committee for combating emigration and settlement (of Jews to Palestine and the occupied territories).

Speaking at a press conference at the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Wednesday, Abbadi, also president of the JMA, said the march would follow a two-day conference on combating Jewish immigration and settlement in occupied Palestine and on the human rights of Palestinians.

The conference, scheduled to open May 12 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, will include Arab professional and trade union leaders.

"Two hundred Arab union leaders are expected to join the march, as well as representatives from Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Jordan Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, Palestinian deportees and the committees of public freedoms from the Lower House and the Jordanian professional unions, all of whom have adopted the march," Abbadi told journalists.

He added that the march was open to all Jordanian and Palestinian public and that those who actually join will determine the number of marchers. Abbadi expressed his hope that no less than 20,000 people would be walking towards the bridge.

He added that representatives from the Lower House of Parliament were approaching the concerned officials in granting a day off to all university, college and school students to enable them to participate in the march that day.

Abbadi said the main aim of the march was to "awaken the people of the serious dangers imposed as a result of the Soviet and East European Jewish immigration and settlement in occupied Palestine — a danger not only for the occupied territories, but also for Jordan and all Arab neighbouring countries."

He added it was important to include the Arab union leaders in such an activity "because they can pressure their governments to take real action to try to stop the Jewish immigration to the occupied territories."

He said the other objective of the march is to "awaken the people's" awareness to the rights of Palestinians to return to Palestine.

Abbadi explained that the marchers would walk "as far as the government allows us." He did not elaborate, but it is expected that the protestors will be allowed to reach as far as the Jordanian side of the King Hussein bridge.

When asked if the marchers would attempt to continue to Jerusalem as is planned by American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) march in June, Abbadi said: "Do you think that a people who demand the right to return to Palestine would be able to break through the barriers of the bridge unless there was approval from the Israeli authorities? The enemy would not allow entering the occupied territories unless there was coordination with them. And we do not coordinate with the enemy."

He explained that banners would be carried by the marchers and the march is planned to be a silent one. "But if people want to chant slogans or sing nationalist songs, they are welcome to do so," Abbadi said.

He said the popular committee for the combat of emigration and settlement, which was established three months ago "when the Americans stopped allowing Jewish immigration to the United States and helped Israel in absorbing them in Palestine," will not provide transportation to south Shuneh where the march will be launched.

He explained that there was coordination with the Public Security Department to keep order and ensure that no one will "loose control."

"The union leaders will address the crowd on the two issues adopted by the committee of the march when they reach the destination," Abbadi said.

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## National charter commission to meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 60-member Royal Commission entrusted with drafting a national charter to guide the democratisation process in Jordan will hold its second meeting at the Royal Court Saturday, according to an official announcement here Wednesday.

The commission members are expected to hear a report by a sub-committee on draft laws which are deemed necessary to organise the commission's work procedures, according to the announcement.

In its first session held at the Royal Court on April 21, the commission elected Suleiman Hadidi, a nationalist lawyer and Ishaq Al Farhan a member of the Upper House of Parliament and the Muslim Brotherhood as the first and second assistants to commission Chairman Ahmad Obeidat.

Serving member of the Lower House of Parliament and former foreign minister Taher Al Masri was named rapporteur.

According to commission sources, several other meetings will be held during which different views of the members will be discussed.

Obeidat, who was named commission chairman by His Majesty King Hussein on April 9, was quoted as saying that the commission could take several months to discuss before reaching consensus on a national charter which will be put to the vote in a general referendum.

Obeidat said the charter was expected to crystallise standing policies for Jordan's domestic and external affairs and set the stage for action in the future.

## Tawjihi final exam to be held June 12-25

AMMAN (J.T.) — An announcement by the Ministry of Education Wednesday said the second and final examination session for the Tawjihi students in the 1989-1990 scholastic year will begin in Amman and other cities in Jordan on June 12 and end on June 25.

The announcement said that students taking practical examinations, like typing, will sit for examination on May 21 and finish it in four days.

A total of 66,302 tawjihi students were registered for the first term examination which was held last January and the same number of students is expected to sit for the second term examination in the coming month.

The Ministry of Education officials said 857 examination halls would be made ready for the students who sit for exams in the literature, science, commerce, agriculture, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams.

Last January, the ministry said, 6,500 students were absent from one or more examination, but they have a second chance in the coming scholastic year for examinations they failed to take.

The director of the Ministry of Education's Examination Department said that according to the current regulations the result of each session will be calculated out of 50, so that by adding the two, the final result will be out of 100.

The Ministry of Education plans to scrap the present two session examination system in three years from now.

A ministry statement said last December that as of the 1993-94 scholastic year, Tawjihi students will be sitting for only one examination session at school year end.

The plan, the ministry said, will be in implementation of the 1987 national educational conference's resolutions which also provided for a set of modernisation programmes to overhaul the education system in Jordan.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### King condoles Abu Taleb family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid to convey condolences to Abu Taleb family over the death of Ali Abu Taleb. His Royal Highness Prince Hassan also delegated his advisor, Brigadier Mohammad Njadat, to convey condolences to Abu Taleb family.

### Mubarak sends greetings to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was crossing the Jordanian airspace heading to Syria. Mubarak wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

### Arar calls meetings for House members

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) parliamentary committee decided Wednesday to call the committee for a meeting Thursday. Also Thursday, Arar called the house's foreign affairs committee to meet the chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

### Ministry of Culture makes gifts of books

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture has presented collections of books, cultural, literary, scientific and historic magazines to several municipalities, cultural clubs and societies in various parts of the Kingdom during the month of April. The ministry has also presented a collection of books dealing with various topics to Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, the National Association for Educating the Children and Al Muqar'n Society for Social Development.

### Islamic Academy committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Academy's committee will hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr to discuss some proposals and studies concerning the academy. The committee includes as members President of the Islamic Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research Nasserredin Al Assad, Senators Kamel Al Sharif and Ishaq Al Farhan, the Kingdom's General Mufti Izzeddin Al Khatib, the Armed Forces Mufti Noah Al Qdahi, deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani and the Orphans Fund Director-general Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

### Yarmouk University attends conference

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University participated in the American Society for Higher Education conference held in San Francisco recently. The university's vice president for academic affairs, Mohammad Abu Saleh, represented the university in the conference. The university also took part in the 13th conference of the European accounting committee which was held in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Sayel Ramadan, who represented the university in the conference, said he submitted a working paper dealing with accountancy and auditing in Jordanian institutions and industrial companies.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### THEATRE

★ Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shaked" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

### BAZAAR

★ Charitybazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awda Club, Zarqa.

### FILM

★ Feature film entitled "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

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## Reflections and hopes

JORDAN Wednesday marked His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers. During the 37 years of His Majesty's reign, Jordan achieved tremendous progress in all fields and at all levels. The country went through profound transformation from an underdeveloped country to a state with a considerable degree of sophistication in contemporary statehood. Throughout King Hussein's reign, the country maintained itself as an oasis of moderation and stability. This remarkable achievement was made possible under the wise leadership of the King. Jordan's success story has often been the subject of emulation by countries all over the world. Many theses were advanced to explain the ability of a small country to stay moderate and stable in a sea of turmoil in spite of many hurdles. The unanimous conclusion of all these studies point to the King, both as a monarch and a person, as being the very catalyst for the harmonious development of the country.

Whether it was King Hussein's early steps to consolidate the Kingdom's independence through the Arabisation of the Armed Forces or his historic decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank to bolster the Palestinian identity, the past 37 years came to a climax when he made the bold step towards reviving democracy in Jordan. Contemporary historians would certainly record the King's verdict that the time was ripe to enhance the country's political life in parallel with all the economic and social developments that have been achieved in the past four decades. By this timely decision to initiate the democratisation process the King has ushered in a completely new era in Jordan's history. How Jordanians would nurse this new political experience would determine its viability and durability. But, of course, with the King's wisdom and experience and the Jordanian people's political maturity, one would enthusiastically hope that the Kingdom will eventually surpass all the problems that it faces at present and will triumph in its quest to become a fully modernised and democratic state.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i daily on Tuesday paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his endeavours to serve the Arab Nation over the past 37 years of his assuming constitutional powers. The paper also voiced the Jordanian people's appreciation of the efforts exerted by the workers who were instrumental in helping Jordan achieve progress and development. The joint efforts of the leader and the workers through the long march towards construction and development over the past decades have no doubt borne fruit and yielded excellent results represented in the present stability in the Kingdom and the democratic rule which the country now enjoys, said the paper. The paper referred to the projected national charter which, it said, will no doubt infuse further efforts towards democracy and towards national unity and progress for the country. As Jordan celebrates the 37th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Labour Day, the paper said, the people of Jordan look forward towards further accomplishments as a result of close cooperation between the leadership and the workers and between the monarch and his people.

Writing in Al Ra'i Tuesday columnist Tareq Masarweh calls on parliament to enact a special law, allowing the government to flush out the sources of evil and the corrupt officials who still hold senior positions in government departments. The writer says that certain elements of evil and corrupt officials who have now lost their power to pursue their underhand dealings and their embezzlement of public funds are now trying to make a return to the public scene through different means. All those responsible for the loss of millions of dinars on losing projects and all those officials who wittingly approved of deals that were meant to make the country suffer, should be flushed out and removed from office and tried, says the writer. He notes that although the country is now enjoying an atmosphere of democracy, the general atmosphere remains poisoned with the presence of evil elements in their former positions in public or private organisations. The writer emphasises that since the people of Jordan are now paying the price, and are suffering from heavy debts and soaring prices, it is only just and fair that the representatives of the people should see that the elements of evil are removed from the scene.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Labour Day reminds Jordanians of the great efforts exerted by the workers in urban and rural areas, in factories and farms and in construction. The paper said that respect and appreciation of the workers can be displayed through respect of their production and through true commitment on the part of the Jordanian society to grant workers their full right and their legitimate share in the process of enhancing democracy in the country. There is no doubt, said the paper, that in an atmosphere of greater democracy, the workers can and will increase their production. The paper paid tribute to the government for allowing the workers to form unions of every kind because such moves can only bolster the democratic rule in the country.

## Economic Forum

# Third World debt: looming explosion

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE international debt is a problem that will certainly go with us into the 21st century. The third quarter of this century has seen the explosion of foreign aid, which started with the Marshall Plan for Europe before reaching the Third World and turning into what was termed as aid fatigue. The industrialised countries discovered that aid was not doing the conceived job. Ridiculously enough, certain statistical gimmicks were employed to show that aid had even an adverse effect on economic growth in less developed countries (LDCs).

At a certain point in the seventies, assistance from developed nations to LDCs took the form of loans, at relatively soft terms in the beginning and at pretty commercial ones later on. The inflation of the seventies pushed interest rates up and this led to a hardening of borrowing terms and an escalation in the burdens of servicing Third World debt. Now, this debt had swollen into something like \$1,200 billion. The Third World debt has had two characteristic features which must be very annoying to all parties concerned. First, debt has been growing steadily and this growth took place even after the world awoke to the debt crisis and the real dangers of default by Third World debtor countries. Second, given the present terms of the outstanding debt and the present attitudes of creditor countries, based mainly on unforgiveness, the Third World debt will grow indefinitely.

Assume that the average contracted life of loans extended to LDCs is 12 years and the average interest rate on them is 10 per cent. This means that the service of Third World debt in terms of principal repayments and interest payments amounts to something like \$200 billion per annum. Of course, this figure dwarfs any growth figures of the exports of debtor countries. Now remember that the combined total exports of goods and services of all developing countries, including non-debtor ones, is less than their debt of \$1,200 billion, which means that these exports can outgrow that debt only if they grow at more than 16 per cent on a sustained basis for a very long time. If that happens, the debt may start to

decline, assuming that the extra export proceeds are used to repay outstanding loans. And that is only a "start", the end of the march is something else. Thus the international debt problem has been perpetuated under the present terms of this debt and the present attitudes of creditor countries. If the growth of debtor countries' export proceeds is not sufficient to service their external debt, then they must resort to more external borrowing in order to avoid default. Because no party wants them to default, debtor countries have been able to shop more external loans used for repaying old ones, commonly under the IMF-sponsored rescheduling mechanisms. But repayments are greater than fresh borrowings. This is the debt trap.

Thus the last quarter of the 20th century witnessed the evolution of what may be termed a new sort of world feudal system with landlords of creditor countries and workpeople of debtor ones. If developing countries are to give \$200 billion of their gross domestic product in way of debt service, the fruits of their future economic development will be reaped by advanced countries and the living standards of their peoples will stagnate not to say deteriorate. It is not fanciful to say here that this situation sows the seeds of worldwide tension and entices state or country struggle which will supplant class struggle. The above-mentioned "present attitude of creditor countries" is instrumental in this context. This attitude is centred around unforgiveness

which maintains that debts must be repaid if international economic relations are not to be undermined. Writing debts off sets a very dangerous precedent as it lures debtors not to repay and, thereafter, "creditors not to lend and thus the international payments mechanism is stalled. This is true but unfortunately does not solve the explosive problem of Third World debt. Sooner or later, an alternative to both writing this debt off and paying it fully under its present terms must be worked out or the entire world will have to face the consequences. Example: Rescheduling over long periods of 30 or 40 years even with no grace periods and voluntary or compulsory writing-offs in well-defined cases.

## U.S. says all-Europe security system can't replace NATO

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States, not convinced that the Soviet threat has been eliminated by Eastern bloc changes, is trying to strangle at birth an idea that a pan-European security system should replace NATO.

As the Western alliance faces up to key meetings on its future, with some questioning whether it is still needed now the East-West "iron curtain" has crumbled, U.S. officials are saying that while NATO may have to adapt, it is still vital.

"All of us would want to buy a cheap insurance policy if one were offered, and NATO is one," says James Dobbin, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs.

A European collective security system has long been a Soviet objective but was rejected in the past by the West as an attempt to get American troops out of Europe and allow Moscow to dominate the continent.

Now, with Soviet troops pulling out of Eastern Europe, the emerging democracies there and some Western politicians have suggested the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) could step up its security role.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, while supporting membership of the expected unified Germany in the Western alliance, last week attacked "old style bloc thinking" and said: "What we need is a common European security system."

But U.S. officials say it is unrealistic to replace a multinational alliance with a CSCE system that would be based on each country's national forces individually.

"(The Soviets) want to take a collective defence arrangement, NATO, and substitute a collective security arrangement, CSCE... we're saying no, that's not even in your interest," Dobbin told European journalists last week.

Another senior official said the Soviet Union would remain the only nuclear and conventional superpower in Europe even if it withdrew all its forces from abroad, and was still "amazingly unpredictable" in its domestic affairs.

"How can you start dismantling the structure of Western security in Europe while this question is still open?" said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"American troops were not sent to Europe in support of some vague League-of-Nations style collective security system, defending everybody against everybody."

NATO faces a busy period, starting when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meets other allied foreign ministers next Thursday to discuss German unification.

There are further key meetings of defence and foreign ministers in May and June and plans for a summit, possibly in June or July, that will update the alliance's aims after the political earthquake in East Europe.

U.S. officials say they are sceptical that NATO could become the forerunner of a purely political organisation, as sometimes suggested in Europe. One called this "escapism" from the West's continuing security needs.

But some independent U.S. analysts say NATO will lose public confidence if it gives the impression it simply means to carry on for ever.

"NATO must make it clear it is working for conditions where it can be superseded by a different security structure," says Stanley Sloan of the Congressional Research Service. "Only then will the public see the NATO role as relevant."

Both sides agree that U.S. forces in Western Europe should go down from 305,000 to 225,000, with Moscow making an even bigger cut down to 195,000 in Eastern Europe.

If a treaty can be negotiated — the latest round of talks ended last week with major outstanding problems, especially on aircraft

cases seeking the nullification of his sale of the building to SBC. Patriarch Diodoros, speaking to the Jordan Times in Greek through an interpreter at the Greek-Orthodox Church in Amman, said the patriarchate had also filed a case against the presence of the "guards" in the building.

"We are determined not to allow any violation of church property," said the patriarch, who was receiving dozens of Christian and Muslim leaders paying tribute to the "solid stand of the church against Israeli plans."

"Muslims as well as Christians have understood what is behind the Israeli move. Sheikhs brushed shoulders with priests to resist the Israelis," said the 67-year-old patriarch, who personally led the protesters against the forced occupation of the building on April 11 and collapsed after being overcome by teargas in the melee.

"The Jews want to change the special characteristics of the (Christian quarter) of the Old City, and we are not going to allow that."

"We have used and will continue to use all our spiritual means to counter it," he added, fingering a cross around his neck, apparently in memory of the April 11 violence during which a chain he wore with a medallion with an image of Jesus Christ was broken.

The patriarch, who took over the Holy Land patriarchate in 1981, declined to answer a direct question whether the Greek Orthodox Church was seeking to reverse the declared decision by the new conservative government in Athens to upgrade its formal relations with Israel. "It's a political matter, and I do not want to comment on it," he said.

However, a source close to the patriarch said that the church felt that the Athens government "should not have even discussed the matter now."

## Carter continues global mediation efforts

# Former U.S. president gratified by resurgent popularity

By Robert Byrd  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA, Georgia — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter says he's gratified by newfound popularity and the respect he's getting for his global mediation efforts.

Carter played a prominent role in certifying Nicaragua's recent presidential election as fair. He was invited to oversee elections in Hungary and Romania. And he will help monitor elections in the Dominican Republic in May.

But, he said: "It's not a niche I want to fulfill permanently. If I see that my presence can be the deciding factor in the integrity of an election, I would do it, but I don't need to go just to say, 'we've got a former U.S. president here.'"

In an interview last week in his Carter Presidential Centre office, the 65-year-old former president warned of tougher times ahead for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But he said it's a mistake to assume that Communism is crumbling universally, and explained how — and why — he was willing to go to Beirut, Lebanon.

Carter attributed the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe mainly to Gorbachev.

"It's a change that Gorbachev has brought," Carter said. "It would be a mistake to think it's a worldwide inevitability."

"We don't see it happening in North Korea. We don't see it happening in Vietnam. We don't see it happening in Albania. We

don't see it happening in China, and we haven't seen it happen in Cuba."

Gorbachev's biggest threat — "much worse than ethnic independence moves or anything else" — is his country's economic ruin, Carter said, adding:

"When I meet privately with Soviet leaders, they make it clear to me that the West has underestimated the economic deterioration in the Soviet Union."

"How Gorbachev will deal with it, I don't know. The fact is, he's been in office now for about five years, and the situation's gotten worse."

In the Middle East, Carter sees "a general consensus... now, that the time for hostage-taking has passed and that these hostages ought to be released."

He complimented current U.S. President George Bush for "opening up new avenues of at least discussion and exploration on how the hostages might be released."

In the wake of last week's release of American hostage Robert Pollitt by pro-Iranian Lebanese captors, Carter said, "the United States should not be too effusive in your thanks, when only one hostage is released. But you can acknowledge the fact that this is leading towards reconciliation."

After spending 10 days in the Middle East last month, Carter was criticised for charging Israel with violations of Palestinian rights.

"I know that when any statement is made that is critical of Israel... it's going to be conde-

med," he said. "I understand their concerns."

He reiterated that he had simply condemned one Israeli policy — "Deporting mothers and children from their own homes in the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan, which I thought was a terrible crime."

During his trip, Carter sought to meet with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, to understand firsthand Lebanon's position in the volatile region.

He considered just going to Beirut, but "I knew the State Department would not approve. So my thought was to meet with president Hrawi at a military base inside Lebanon."

But U.S. officials urged him to stay away from the war-torn country. "I felt perfectly secure, but I can understand the concerns of others about me," he said.

While Carter has been seen as a success on the Global stage, former President Ronald Reagan has been criticised for taking lucrative speaking engagements.

The result: Carter's approval rating in U.S. public opinion polls is higher now than that of the man who defeated him so overwhelmingly 10 years ago.

"You find that surprising?" Carter joked.

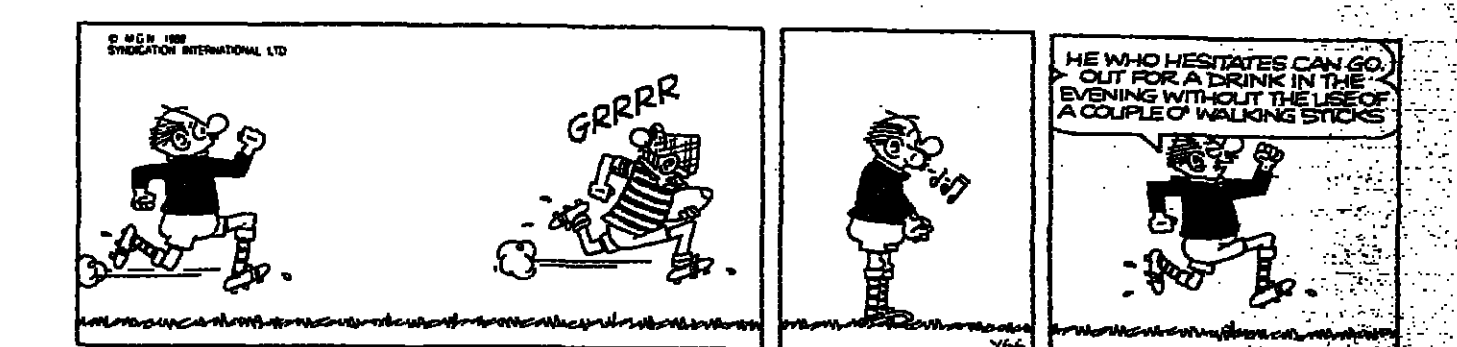
During his administration from 1977 to 1981, Carter was widely criticised for the state of the economy and his handling of foreign affairs, including the Iranian hostage crisis.

Carter conceded he finds his new popularity flattering, although "that's not the goal of my life, to get favourable public opinion polls."

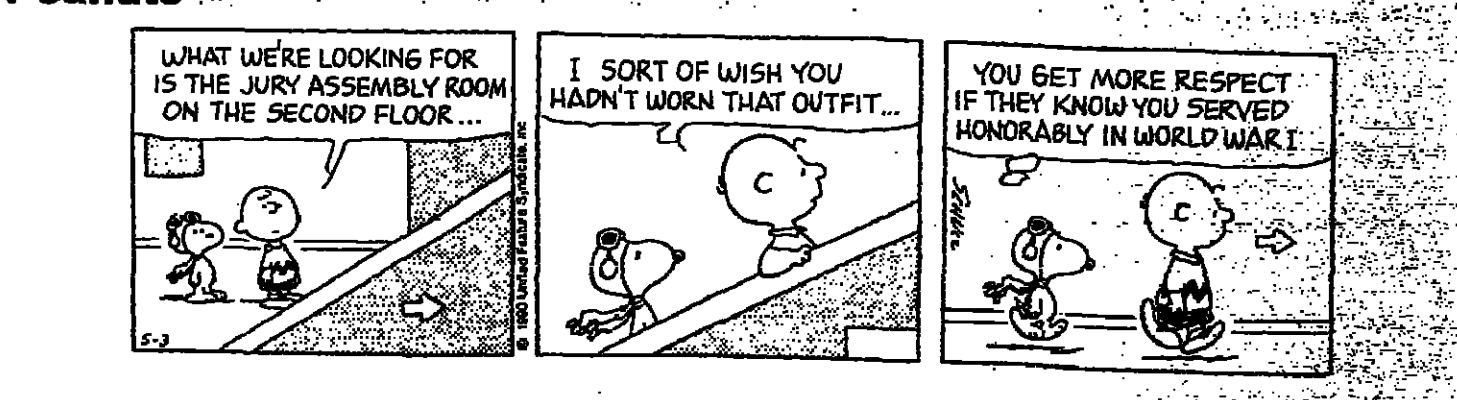
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts





# Jordan Times

## WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

May 3, 1990

A

## Domestic life in Palestine — An objective history of the area

By Hana Darwazah

**Domestic Life in Palestine** by Mary Eliza Rogers  
First published in 1962, this edition published in 1989 by  
Kegan Paul International Limited.  
Price JD 19,350  
P.P. 416

WHILE the Palestinian intifada continues, and Palestinians resist the creation of yet more Jewish settlements to accommodate the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigration, *Domestic Life in Palestine* offers a new argument to the fallacy perpetuated by the early Zionists about Palestine being in the 1800's "a land without a people for a people without a land."

Lending credibility to the book, is the fact that it was written by the sister of the British consul in Damascus. The author, Mary Rogers, paid a visit to her brother in Palestine between 1855-1857 and the sister of a British consul hardly be accused of being pro-Arab.

Rogers originally wrote *Domestic Life in Palestine* as a personal journal, a sort of an account of her own observations as a traveller, it was not intended for publication. It was rather more of a series of notes that she jotted down to help her remember her impressions of her trip. Upon returning to England and showing her notes to her friends, they encouraged her to rewrite her notes and publish them as a book.

Rogers has a keen observant eye that catches the minutest detail, plus an educated background that renders her descriptions vivid and arresting. In addition, Biblical references are abundant throughout the book and evident in her historical comparisons. For example, while describing the attire of a woman she came across she likens her veil to that of the Biblical figure of Ruth: "Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee and hold it, and when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her..." (p. 46).

From Rogers' description of the people she meets, one gets a sense of the social situation of Palestine in the nineteenth century. Katherine, a widow, hired as Rogers' attendant was "subject to fits of mental derangement; for in the year 1834, when her native town was the scene of rebellion, her husband and little sons were murdered in her presence in their beds..." (p. 62). This apparently is a reference to Bethlehem where in 1834 there was a religious "insurrection" and Muslims were driven out of their homes and the town.

One also gains valuable insight into the demographic situation and distribution of people in Palestine in the 1850s. According to Rogers the population of Haifa in

1854 was as follows:

Muslims	1,200
Greek Catholics	400
Roman Catholics	50
Maronites	30
Orthodox Greeks	300
Jews	32
Total	2012 (p. 85)

The population of Nazareth:	
Muslims	680
Greek Orthodox	1,040
Roman Catholics	480
Greek Catholics	520
Maronites	400 (p. 128)
Total	3120

"This gives a total of 3120; but the most recent and careful inquirers assure me that this estimate is too low; they reckon the total at 4000, and the Greek (Orthodox) Church is said to be on the increase. I never met a Jew either in Nazareth or Bethlehem!" (p. 128)

### BOOK REVIEW

The political situation is portrayed lucidly through Rogers' accounts of her travels in the area. "Nearly all the Turks with whom I came in contact seemed to glory in successful intrigue, and were generally shrewd and clever. They had little or no sympathy with Arabs, and apparently no true patriotism," (p. 161).

The book is also valuable in that it explains some topics that are vague today, such as the origin, beliefs and rites of the Samaritans. The Samaritans apparently believe in the Pentateuch only, regarding other parts of the Bible as forgeries. They believe themselves to be children of Manasseh and Ephraim, and their priest is supposedly a linear descendant of the tribe of Levi. They are very close and inter-marry, thus the reason for their dwindling numbers.

*Domestic Life in Palestine* covers many subjects, too many to go into details. As the title implies, it is a descriptive book. It describes the lives of Palestinian people of the time, their houses, their attire, and their land. The narrative style is beautiful and colourful, if slightly formal English. The details of the scenery and especially of the women's dresses are painstakingly described with an artistic perspective.



Being an artist herself, (the author apparently drew portraits and natural scenery), lends a reality of the book that leaves an imprint into the readers' imagination.

Although it cannot be described as easy reading, nor the kind of fast page turner that one cannot put down, *Domestic Life in Palestine* is a must for anyone interested in an objective history of the area, and a valuable addition to any decent library.

## Riding high in a man's world

By Katha Sabat

CAIRO — While many young women dream of becoming journalists who will interview the famous or anchor television news programmes, reality shows that the top jobs are by and large reserved to men even today. The few women who have made it are very much the exception.

Egypt boasts one of them: She is Maha Abdul Fattah and she has made political journalism her speciality. Her employer, the Al Akhbar newspaper chain which is one of Egypt's leading media concerns, recently rewarded her talent with a glamorous promotion. Formerly, deputy editor for international affairs in Cairo, Maha will now represent Al Akhbar daily and its sister publication Akhbar Al Yom in the United States and Canada. Based in Washington, she says she is still learning everyday, because the way of life is so different.

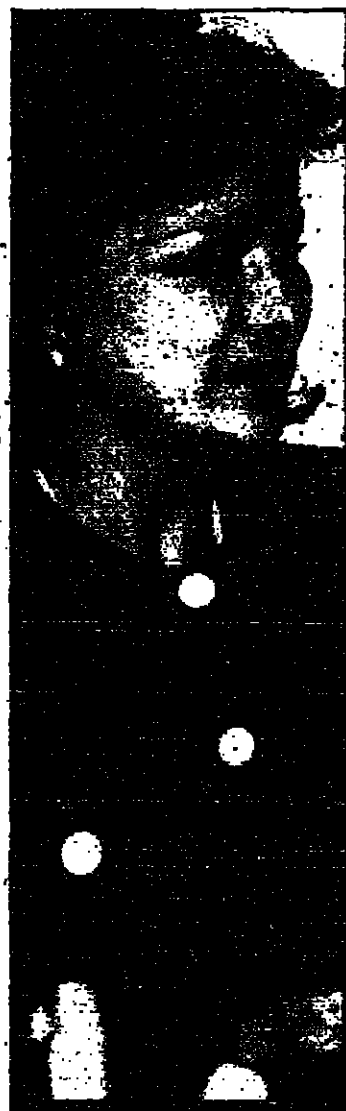
"It's at the same time easy and difficult to get the news, here," she explains. Easy because of all the news briefings given by government officials and private groups, and difficult in the selection that has to be made from the mass of information available.

Elegant, with the tailored look, Maha speaks eloquently of her work and her goals. "A journalist who does not change course radically now and again stagnates," she declared during a recent interview. Instead of focusing on stability and job security, Maha is intent on furthering her career, even if that means

chaos for a while. "To me journalism is something alive, something that develops constantly. This is why I did not hesitate for a second when they offered me the job of representing the Akhbar Al Yom group in the U.S. and Canada. It's a step forward to leave the environment in which I have been working for years and continue my work abroad. Having the opportunity to establish new international contacts will be an excellent way for me to enrich my thoughts and capabilities."

Maha admits that she took her time on the way to becoming a professional. First she studied English literature in college, and then tried her hand at writing. "That's when I realised that journalism is what suits me best," she says. "I was also advised by a true master, Anis Mansour, who was my professor, to head for the newsrooms."

Heeding the advice of this well-known columnist, she trained at Al Akhbar. "I never dreamt that I would become a political specialist, I saw myself more in the artistic and literary field, which would have been in line with my studies," she recalls, but chance intervened. It all started when the head of the political section at Al Akhbar, Hamdi Fouad, another well-known figure in the Egyptian press world, transferred to the other leading Egyptian daily Al Ahtam. Owing to her knowledge of English, Mustapha and the late Ali Amin, the twin brothers who had founded Al Akhbar, sent



Maha Abdul Fattah

Maha to cover an international conference.

"I suppose they must have been satisfied with my article," she says with a smile, "because they continued to give me similar assignments until the day they actually gave me the post recently

vacated by Hamdi Fouad. I was stunned. Never in my wildest dreams had I hoped for so much!"

Time has proved that the brothers were right to trust Maha. Today she is facing the challenge of setting up a new office and organising what will be a demanding work. At this point she is not sure where her office will be — "For now I'll work out of my apartment. For me the important thing is to write and I can do that anywhere," she says.

Even when the operation is on an even keel, she probably won't have much time for her personal life, but she is used to that, she says.

"It is almost impossible to be a journalist at a certain level, and at the same time be a perfect home-maker," she notes wryly. "While several of her female colleagues have either reduced their work hours or given up their career entirely for the sake of their families, Maha refused to marry young and start a family."

"I got married rather late, at a time when I felt it would not interfere with my career. I was more mature, I knew exactly what I wanted and I can safely say that my marriage is a success, although it may not be conventional as most," she says, adding that her job promotion won't interfere that much in the relationship because her husband is a businessman who travels the world. Instead of meeting up in Cairo, they will be together in the United States.

"We don't have any children and that makes things

easier. It was a deliberate choice we made together," she explains. "To me, children are not a hobby, they are a full-time job. I speak of choice, but really, it was more a question of fate. In any case, it is too late now."

In setting her goals, Maha, consciously or not, rejected the mantle of tradition which guides the lives of many women in the Arab World and elsewhere. "When people talk about traditions, I say that society is made up of individuals and that providing moral principles are respected, an individual should be allowed to have his own concept of life," she says. But she does not see herself as a role model.

"In Egypt some women are living in the Middle Ages while others are well into the 21st century. I chose modernity," she argues. It gives her a sense of pride to have won the respect of her colleagues and of the people with whom she has professional contacts.

Not to say that the road to success has always been a smooth one. "At the beginning especially, I had lots of problems. I was young, I lacked experience and I did not realise that some people can do you harm for no reason at all," she says. A few years ago a major difficulty arose because of a misunderstanding with the paper's management. She ended up being sent home where she spent four years, waiting for things to change.

"Situations always change, it's just a question of pati-

ence," she notes. She put the time to good use reading and studying extensively, which she said, allowed her to gain a more objective view of life and the media's role.

Besides dealing with the news, Maha is an author in her own right, as well as being involved in the publication of one of Egypt's current bestsellers, a biography of the late King Farouk. The subject was still somewhat taboo, but Maha worked hard to bring it to a large public by writing a synopsis of the work that was printed as a serial in Al Akhbar.

She is also noted for her own book, a day-by-day account of the process that led to the U.S.-brokered Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel in 1979. Along with eminent Egyptian writers like Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz, Tewfik Al Hakim, Anis Mansour and Abdul Aziz Ramadan, Maha saw her work boycotted by a number of Arab countries, which ostracised Egypt for making peace with Israel. "In a sense it was an honour to be lumped together with such company," she recalls, "but I am glad that the relationship with our Arab brothers has changed and that this ostracism has ended."

The book, entitled *A Step Towards Peace* is still only available in Arabic. Concludes Maha: "I think it is one of those things that will only become significant once the subject loses its virulence and becomes a part of history — World News Link."

## Diary

THE JORDAN Press Association has rented a new building to house its offices which will also serve as a sort of press club, with conference rooms and spacious halls. The new building will be a far cry from the tiny apartment that now houses the Journalists' Association and their activities. In support of the press family in Jordan His Majesty King Hussein will personally pay the rent of the new centre. The Press Association will use the new building until it can come up with enough money to finance its own permanent headquarters on a land already allocated for the purpose opposite the Jordan Times' and Al Ra'i offices on University Road. Informal sources told the Jordan Times that His Majesty has pledged to lead donations to help finance construction of the building.

UNCONFIRMED reports of a major reshuffle which will involve several under-secretaries are spreading around town with a date placed on the change at the beginning of next week. Observers maintain that such a move would indicate a strong shift in government policies since it is these second men who actually run their ministries. The reports are quickly gaining credibility as several prospective "candidates" are running around asking others if they had heard of such reports. One such person, who believes that he would be the best man for one of the openings, "denied" such reports categorically. "The reports cannot be true. I have not been contacted," he said.

TALKING about change and government changes, embassies and ambassadors will not escape unscathed. At least four ambassadors will be relieved from their official duties in order to allow them to spend more time in their homes here in Jordan. The move was made necessary apparently to make way for a long line of appointed ambassadors who have not been able to practise their diplomatic skills abroad. One source pointed out that the ambassadors who are currently serving will be moved to base rather than sideways. "The measure is only aimed at opening vacancies for new ambassadors at large," the source said, meaning that vacant posts will basically go to those envoys who have never served abroad.

ROYAL Jordanian is still faced with a problem that was believed solved weeks ago. An RJ captain, Safwan Hussein, refused to fly an aircraft on a flight from Amman to Paris while there was liquor on board. This happened a few weeks back and the captain has been grounded since then. The government had earlier banned the sale of alcoholic beverages on RJ's Islamic and Arab routes after the Islamic Bloc in parliament demanded the complete ban of alcohol on all our national carrier's flights. Sources at RJ told the Jordan Times that the problem is finally on its way to finding a solution. Rather than firing the pilot for refusing to obey rules and regulations, or giving in to his demand of banning alcohol from flights, he may be moved to another job which does not require him to carry either passengers or liquor on the aircraft he commands. Cargo flights are mentioned as a possible destination.

FOR one reason or another, the diary has been the recipient of many news items on the status of Jordan's embassy in Moscow, to the dismay and bewilderment of our ambassador there as well as several Foreign Ministry officials. A Jordanian voice vocalist who took an official trip to Korea as part of a three-member Jordanian team discovered the truth behind the status of the Jordanian embassy in the communist superpower. Pressed by pre-arranged appointments in Jordan, the vocalist had to leave Korea and return home earlier than the rest of the team. The only flight connection back to Amman was through Moscow. So, our vocalist friend took the connection only to find that she was a day late for her flight back to Amman from Moscow and that she had to wait in Moscow for a week for the next flight. The first thing that came to her mind was to call the Jordanian embassy there to help her solve accommodation and other mundane problems at hand. For three hours, telephone operators at the airport were looking for a listing of a Jordanian embassy in Moscow, only to fail at their task and inform the by-now despondent vocalist that Jordan does not have an embassy in Moscow. So the vocalist tried the Palestinian embassy, which was immediately contacted and her one week stay in Moscow was smooth sailing from there on. Can someone please double check whether the Jordanian embassy in Moscow is actually listed in the directory or not?

### Thoughts For the Week

For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness

— Ralph Waldo Emerson, U.S. writer (1803-1882).

A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle

— Benjamin Franklin, U.S. statesman (1706-1790).

From the little spark may burst a mighty flame

— Dante Alighieri, Italian poet (1265-1321).

Victory belongs to the most persevering

— Napoleon Bonaparte, French emperor (1769-1821).

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, and that is all

— Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

Critics are the men who have failed in literature and art

— Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

Though familiarity may not breed contempt, it takes the edge off admiration

— William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).

Imagination is more important than knowledge

— Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

We think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom

— Francis Bacon, English writer (1561-1626).

One great use of words is to hide our thoughts

— Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Nermeen Murad







## Actor Roy Scheider mixes politics and movies

By Christopher Michael  
Reuters

NEW YORK — Roy Scheider's new film, *The Fourth War*, chronicles a private conflict between a U.S. border patrol colonel and his Soviet counterpart in the age of glasnost.

The American actor, well-known for his portrayals of various screen tough guys, said he was intrigued by the idea of personal East-West conflict in the new political climate.

Events in Eastern Europe have been moving so quickly, he said, that writers for some films with a Soviet setting had to scramble while the pictures were in production to keep facts accurate.

Scheider has made a number of films with Soviet themes in recent years.

A few years ago he hosted *Portrait of the Soviet Union*, a television documentary offering an inside look at Soviet life. And recently he finished filming the adaptation of John le Carré's *The Russia House*, with Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Connery.

Scheider said his *Fourth War* character, Jack Knowles, "is not like the strong-jawed heroes I've played before (*Blue Thunder*, *French Connection*, *The 7 Ups*).

"He's really a hero and a fool at the same time," he said.

"He's a super patriot, with a super ego about his country's military."

Scheider, 54, said he finds himself thinking and acting much more politically in his middle years.

"I've shot my mouth off plenty about capital punishment, which I'm opposed to," he said. His current project, *Someone Has to Shoot the Pictures*, is a film for television with a decidedly anti-capital punishment slant.

Prison dramas might seem typical Scheider material, given his frequent past portrayals of policemen, military men and other miscellaneous tough guys. In *Someone Has to Shoot*, however, he plays a photographer rather than a prisoner of a guard.

He's played so many cops, in fact, he is often recognised



Roy Scheider

and gets picked up by squad cars when trying to hail a taxi. "In New York City this is not such a bad thing," he noted.

It's a far cry from the days when blue uniforms "gave me the willies." When I was a kid I was always getting into trouble," he said.

"But after I did the *French Connection* and a couple of other movies about cops, I got a certain empathy and understanding for what their life is like."

Scheider said the challenge in the tough-guy roles

in "finding the vulnerable side to these hardheads, to humanise them." In the *Fourth War*, he wrote a scene in which Knowles speaks tenderly on the telephone with his children back home.

His most acclaimed role along those particular lines was as a song and dance man in Bob Fosse's 1979 film, *All That Jazz*, for which Scheider earned his second Academy Award nomination the first was for *The French Connection*.

"A lot of people screamed and hollered and said 'what the hell are you doing, Fosse?' That's bad casting, Roy Scheider can't do that!"

"That made the challenge all the more interesting, and we pulled it off," he said "but that was such a juicy, multi-dimensional role that you're lucky if you get one in a lifetime. It's tough to top."

He might have topped it in a film he was set to star in called *The Deer Hunter*, but under contract to Universal, he was forced to quit the production that helped rocket Robert De Niro to stardom in order to repeat his role as Sheriff Brody in (*Jaws II*).

## Sistine Chapel cleaning enters final phase with 'Last Judgement'

By Philip Pullicella  
Reuters

VATICAN CITY — Gianluigi Colalucci will feel the difference in his neck.

Nearly every day for the past 10 years he has stood on high scaffolding, his neck craned upward, and lovingly cleaned Michelangelo's awesome frescoes on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Now that they have returned to their original brilliant colours — freed of centuries of dirt, grime, smoke stains and the blunders of earlier would-be restorers — Colalucci, 60, can at last lower his head and work in a natural position.

For the next four years the chief restorer of the Sistine Chapel will be looking squarely at the wall of the last judgment, which the Renaissance art historian Vasari called "that great painting sent by God to men on Earth."

Working behind scaffolding that hides the massive altar wall from the public, Colalucci will face a vengeful Christ, a timid Madonna, saints floating to paradise,

desperate sinners tumbling to hell and trumpeting angels — more than 300 figures that make up Michelangelo's fear-some vision of judgment day. But Colalucci is not trembling. It was his hand, after all, that cleaned what is perhaps the most recognisable fresco in the world — the white bearded God the father extending the finger of his powerful right hand to give life to a limp Adam in the creation scene on the ceiling.

"Like in any restoration, there can be surprises and unknowns," Colalucci said matter-of-factly, with the confidence of a bricklayer about to build his thousandth garden wall.

"But for the most part, after 10 years of work on the ceiling, we know what we will be up against."

In 1994, 486 years after Michelangelo began one of the world's greatest art treasures, the entire Sistine Chapel will re-emerge almost as it was in 1541 when he finally replied to years of taunts by impatient popes with the words: "It is finished."

Unlike the ceiling, which mostly suffered from the elements, the 160 square metre last judgment was above all a victim of history.

With the exception of Christ, the Virgin, and a number of saints, most of its figures were painted naked by

ordered him to make the painting "suitable" Michelangelo replied: "Let him (the Pope) make the world a suitable place and the painting will follow suit."

A month before he died in 1564 the Council of Trent, which spearheaded the counter-reformation, decreed rules of decorum for religious art and ordered some last judgment nudes covered with loin cloths.

The artist who "fixed" Michelangelo, Daniele Da Volterra, entered history with the fitting nickname "breach-maker."

For main additions, Da Volterra did not merely cover offending parts. He hacked out sections, and painted en-

"We should conserve what is coherent with history. Whatever you conserve can be removed at any time. What you remove is lost forever," he said.

To clean the last judgment, Colalucci expects to modify his restoration techniques only slightly, adapting them to a vertical instead of hanging surface. The wall was also more damaged by past restorations because it was more accessible.

Through chemical and molecular analysis restorers are able to tell which brushstrokes Michelangelo applied to dried frescoes to highlight his figures and which were added later.

Tests have shown that for the last judgment's sky, Michelangelo used Lapis Lazuli, a dazzling blue stone which was the most expensive pigment available in his time.

"The blue will be extraordinarily brilliant. The results could be more astounding than the ceiling," said Mancinelli.

Vatican museum officials have taken several steps to preserve the Sistine Chapel. But they have ruled out limiting the number of visitors — which hit a high of 19,000 in one day last summer.

Special dust-absorbing carpets have been laid and a computer-controlled air filtration system will be installed.

But no high technology can bring back Michelangelo's nudes.

As a consolation, art lovers can visit a Vatican exhibition on the Sistine restoration, where a main attraction is a small copy of Michelangelo's original last judgment made by Marcello Venusti in 1545.

In it, St. Catherine is nude and St. Blaise is looking straight at her.

## Disgraced beauty queen begins successful singing career

By Michael Miller  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Vanessa Williams, stripped of her Miss America title six years ago after nude pictures of her appeared in a magazine, has bounced back to become one of the country's hottest new singers.

"Success is the best revenge," says the 27-year-old singer, dancer and actress.

With a million-seller album behind her, Williams feels she has vindicated the faith she had in herself when many critics were writing her off as a disgraced beauty queen.

"The thought of giving up never crossed my mind," she said in an interview with Reuters.

"I had prepared my whole life to be a performer. I just had no other choice. I didn't want to sell real estate. I didn't want to be a secretary. I wanted to sing and dance."

"I knew I was talented and it would just be a matter of time before I'd get an opportunity to work."

Williams was crowned Miss America 1984 at the age of

20, the first black winner in the pageant's history.

But her world collapsed around her a few months later when Penthouse magazine ran a series of suggestive nude photos of her with another female model that had been taken some time before.

She lost her title and sued the publication for \$150 million and the photographer for \$250 million, claiming fraud and exploitation. But she withdrew the lawsuits when the photographer produced a consent form, signed by her, allowing publication of the pictures.

Williams may have lost the title and the lawsuit, but out of the scandal she gained something that, in her eyes, was far more precious — a loving husband and manager, now the father of her two children, baby Jillian and two-year-old Melanie.

Ramon Herve was hired to help Williams deal with the Penthouse lawsuit. They fell in love, married and now live in a three-bedroom house in Playa del Rey, a beach suburb of Los Angeles consisting

of modest, well-kept homes.

It is a far cry from the mansions of Beverly Hills, Bel Air or Malibu, where most stars live, and Williams admits that at present it's about all she can afford.

"I didn't win a lot of money with winning the (*Miss America*) title, and unfortunately the work has not been as steady as I would have liked, due to everything that happened six years ago."

"I have a lot of debt, but hopefully we will be out of debt pretty soon. Luckily, with the success the album's had I think we'll be able to pretty much start a clean slate and really start bringing in some money," she said.

The album, *The Right Stuff*, was her first and brought her three Grammy Award nominations.

Her second album is due out in July and Williams hopes it will be even more successful and lead to tours of Europe and the United States.

Williams, who has also appeared in two feature films and a number of television shows, is very conscious of



Vanessa Williams

her responsibilities as a mother. She and her husband take the children with them whenever they are away from home and she tries to give them as normal a life as possible.

She explained she did not want her children to grow up in a show business environment but in Westchester County, just north of New York City, where she spent her early years.

There, she said, she can buy a nice home on a few acres of land for less than a million dollars, "which is unheard of in Los Angeles."

"I think L.A. is a great place, if you're single and you've got a lot of money," she said. "But I'm not single, and I don't have a lot of money."

## Britain plays out epic drama over money for the arts

By Anne Senior  
Reuters

LONDON — Britain is showing its age-old flair for theatre in a dispute over money for the arts.

The country's hallowed arts companies are short of cash but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government says culture must pay its way like any other business in a free-market economy.

Arts administrators say they are guardians of Britain's heritage, not just business managers, and need help from the public purse to rescue the arts from the taint of commercialism and possible oblivion.

They point to surveys which portray Britain as one of the least generous patrons of the arts in Western Europe. The dispute has been simmering for years but erupted over the last few months with the virulent monologues, polemics of doom and other touches of high Shakespearean drama.

Passions rose to a new pitch when the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) announced it had to cut productions over the winter to save money.

The RSC, expected to lose up to £5 million (\$8 million) this year, will close its two London venues for about four months but continue performances at Shakespeare's birthplace in central England.

The company's incoming Artistic Director Adrian Noble delivered a plea for funds from the RSC stage in London's Barbican Arts Centre. Noble denied he was being handed a "poisoned chalice," but his gloomy demeanour would have suited a tragic hero.

Britain's other "flagship" arts companies are also in trouble. Despite an 11 per cent funding increase this year by the arts council, the main channel for government arts funding, they say they are still suffering from years of neglect. London's Royal Opera

House is around £3 million (\$5 million) in deficit. The English National Ballet and the English National Opera (ENO) had to be given an emergency injection of government funds this year after their local authority slashed its budget contribution.

According to a study published this week, Britain spends less per head on subsidies for the arts than Sweden, West Germany, France, the Netherlands and Canada.

The survey by the London-based Policy Studies Institute, an independent research unit, put Britain next to last in a seven-nation league table, with only the United States spending less on the arts through local and central government grants.

Annual arts spending ranged from nearly £28 per head (\$46) in Sweden to around £10 in (\$16) in Britain and only £2 pounds (\$3) in the United States during 1987, the most recent year for which comprehensive figures

were available. When spending was calculated in relation to economic output Britain also came sixth and the United States seventh.

"British expenditure has increased slightly since 1987 but the broad picture is the same," said Andrew Feist, co-author of the study.

Arts Minister Richard Luce says arts companies do important work for Britain but must be weaned from a "welfare state mentality" and stop relying on society to bail them out.

The National Campaign for the Arts (NCA), an independent arts lobby, says sponsorship has brought welcome new money into the arts, but not enough to make up for decades of under-funding.

Grants for the arts rose only one per cent in real terms in the 10 years to April 1989, while business sponsorship has now stabilised at around five per cent of overall arts funding, said NCA researcher Graham Hitchen.

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## More than artificial limbs to Jordan's orthopaedic centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A man and a young girl steady each other across the floor, while a youth leans back in his chair adjusting some straps. A typical scene at one of Amman's specialised centres for the disabled, and the number of beneficiaries in steadily increasing as a facility to produce artificial limbs is expanding its programmes in Jordan.

The man and woman had lost their legs in a mine explosion in the Dead Sea area, and the youth had to have his leg amputated as a result of cancer. They are among the hundreds who have indirectly benefited from the National Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (NTCOT), which not only trains Jordanians in produc-

ing artificial limbs but also offers specialised courses in helping reintegrate disabled people into their families, workplace and society.

Students enrolled for the three-year programme at the centre, which is attached to the Prince Mona Nursing College, come from the Ministry of Health as well as the Royal Medical Corps, and have proved to be a very significant addition to health services in the Kingdom, according to leading social workers.

By definition, orthopaedic technology deals with physical disabilities by applying technical skills to rehabilitate and make the disabled productive members of the society.

### 'Life worth leading'

"From the viewpoint of the disabled, orthopaedic technology has the humanitarian

element of help to lead a life that is worth living," says Jans Franke, supervisor of the programme at the Princess Mona Nursing College. "They expect this task to be accomplished through a combination of the technical know-how of recovering (full or partial) physical abilities and the psychological insight into their suffering," Franke, a West German, told the Jordan Times.

The main aim of the centre, Franke explained, is to train Jordanians to help improve the life of the disabled through acquiring technical as well as psychological strategies to deal with varying aspects of individual cases. "This is all the more important since the economic situation of most of the disabled does not allow them to take things easy," he said.

The centre/school at the nursing college is the only one of its kind in Middle East, and was set up with help from the government of West Germany, which financed three long-term experts and several short-term experts for the project in addition to supplying teaching equipment and material for theoretical training.

The centre helped about 800 disabled persons during last year alone, and about 200 of them were attended to by its third year students, according to Franke. Most of the beneficiaries were from the Amman and Irbid areas, he said.

"We are trying to establish a workshop to produce prosthesis at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid," he added.

The centre annually takes in 12 students with a minimum of 75 per cent marks in

the tawjihi science stream. The first year of study focuses on introducing the trainees into the areas of basic techniques, machinery, mathematics, anatomy and biomechanics.

In the second year, further emphasis is given to anatomy and biomechanics, dealing with prosthesis and orthoses with a view to intensifying the students' understanding of the principles of static and dynamic alignments of orthopaedic appliances. Practical work during the year involves the production of components for lower limb prosthesis and static and dynamic alignment of the produced parts.

During the third year, the trainees, in addition to theoretical studies, are fully introduced into the art of making orthopaedic appliances.

"During this final phase of the course, the future technologists are supposed to be able to transform the orthopaedic technology they learnt into practical help" for the disabled, Franke said. Students do the practical work at Al Bashir Hospital under strict supervision. "The main focus of the entire programme is that it is intended that the student should gain and develop a feeling of work with and on the patient," Franke said.

### 'Lack of recognition'

Students who graduate from the programme after having undergone examinations from West Germany are

"highly qualified orthopaedic technologists," Franke said. But, their qualifications are not recognised by the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education, according to students from the Ministry of



Production of artificial limbs at the National Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists

Health as well as the Royal Medical Services at the centre.

"I have had a degree for the last three years, and now I teach at the centre," said a student. "But my degree is not recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education. Quite simply, I do not know what my degree means. Most of us here feel neglected."

Another officer/student from the Royal Medical Services said: "I have a masters degree from West Germany in the field orthopaedic techniques, but it is only considered here as equivalent to tawjihi."

Several other students pointed out that they undergo 152 hours of training, at least 30 hours more than university students. "Despite this, we are refused recognition," one of them said.

The absence of recognition

of their educational qualifications means scaled down salaries and related benefits, in addition to the "vast" difference in remunerations between Ministry of Health students and their counterparts from the Royal Medical Services, which is part of the Armed Forces.

"We study the same techniques and theory," he said. "But, our salaries and benefits are different. This of course causes some problems."

Another problem, this time on the social level, is the acute shortage of female trainees. Officials at the centre pointed out that many disabled women prefer to deal with experts from their own sex while discussing "matters related to anatomy."

"We need more females to enrol in the programme," said Franke.

## China grapples

with worsening

## heroin problem

By William Kazer Reuter

KUNMING, China — In a dimly-lit coffee shop in this southwest Chinese city, prostitutes puff on heroin-laced cigarettes, inviting their customers to join them.

At a dance hall nearby, a 17-year-old confides she is a heroin addict, schooled in her habit by her pimp. In a crumbling alleyway across town, a nervous small-time dealer says six of his friends were arrested for using narcotics recently and he is now lying low.

China was nearly drug-free by the early 1950s after the Communists took tough measures to stamp out opium growing and cope with an estimated 20 million addicts when they came to power in 1949.

But narcotics are making a comeback, partly because tight social controls have eased since economic reforms began in 1978. Nowhere is that more evident than in Kunming.

"Drug activities have emerged again and they are affecting our health as well as our economic development," said Chen Cunyi, deputy director of Yunnan province's anti-drug force.

Yunnan is on the fringes of the infamous Golden Triangle, one of the world's main opium producing centres. Kunming, the provincial capital, is a transit centre for illegal drugs bound for Hong Kong and the West.

Even more alarming to local officials, Yunnan is becoming a place for drug use. While the extent of its problem pales beside that of the industrialised world, it is worrying.

Heroin is cheap by Western standards but costly for most Chinese at (\$10.50) a gram (one ounce) — half a month's salary for an average worker. That leads to other social problems, such as theft, mirroring a pattern found in the West.

Most of the opium growing and heroin refining operations are on the Burmese side of the border, Chinese officials said. But Western diplomats said chemicals used in refining, such as acetic anhydride, may come from China.

Narcotics are moved into China through Wanding and Ruili, two towns along the Burmese border, carried by residents who are allowed to move back and forth between the two countries with relative ease.

Drugs are also moved across mountain trails along the border — far from the control of any government — or hidden in truck tyres or in big shipments of goods such as timber.

For a single dangerous trip, a "mule" who carries the drugs across the border can make as much as 20,000 yuan (\$4,200) — about 20 times the average annual income.

"These people are being paid to risk their lives," said a businessman familiar with the trade.

From the border, the drugs move by road to Kunming. Police road blocks line the route and officers routinely check identities of bus passengers and select baggage for inspection.

"On one bus trip from Ruili the man sitting next to me was arrested," the businessman said. "Police found



Trying out an artificial leg

## Genetic engineering probes disturbing frontiers of scientific knowledge

The author of this article, JOHANNES REITER, is professor of moral theology and social ethics at Mainz University.

THE SECOND draft European Community programme on predictive medicine was tabled last November. In a mid-December "common viewpoint" the Council of Ministers advised member governments to implement it.

Surprisingly, the new draft has so far gone unnoticed by both politicians and the general public.

Genetic engineering, which is what it involves, is evidently less important than reproductive medicine for the churches too.

In July 1988 the European Community drew up a predictive medicine programme that was to cost 15 million ECUs, or about DM 30 million. It was given its first reading by the European Parliament in February 1989.

The draft was rejected by all political parties in the Federal Republic on account of serious ethical and legal misgivings, especially in respect of the uses to which it results might be put.

What is predictive medicine? Certain illnesses are programmed in a person's genes, and more complaints than hitherto assumed result from correlation between the genes and the environment. These two facts have led, within the wider purview of genetic engineering, to the emergence of predictive medicine.

It aims at forecasting a patient's future medical record and his genetic likelihood of suffering from specific complaints.

This early warning system will hopefully enable doctors to prevent the outbreak of an illness or at least to exert a positive influence on its progress.

A further aim of predictive medicine is to prevent the

transmission of genetically induced diseases.

It involves analysing the human genome, or set of chromosomes, and compiling an individual genetic chart depicting the chemical components of individual genes in sequence.

This is said to be the only way in which genetic defects that are to blame for certain complaints can be identified.

What, then, about the second European Community draft? On closer scrutiny it is found to be no less problematic from the ethical viewpoint than its predecessor, the term "predictive medicine" merely having been removed from its title.

Thirty-eight detailed changes have been made to the original programme, but basically it remains unchanged, so much so that the impression created is one of a misleading change of label.

Genome analysis and the compiling of a genetic chart may now be given pride of place, rather than predictive medicine, but the change is more apparent than real. Genome analysis and genetic charts are the prerequisites for predictive medicine, which remains the programme's stated long-term objective.

The memorandum proposes ethical, social and legal analysis and discussion of the programme while it is in progress. That is surely a little late in the day.

Analysis and discussion along these lines must be undertaken beforehand, and not during or on completion of the programme.

Fast and furious international competition is currently aimed at mapping and sequencing the human genome.

In the United States a 15-year, \$200 million a year programme is under way. In Japan the Human Frontiers Science Programme (HFSP) is partly aimed at developing genome mapping machinery.

Electronic data processing is clearly a crucial factor here, while in the Soviet Union ten million roubles has been allocated to a project in progress.

The European Community is financing a programme to probe the yeast genome.

Five German groups are associated with this project, but there is relatively little other research activity in this sector in the Federal Republic of Germany.

**The European Community is financing a programme to probe the yeast genome. Five German groups are associated with this project, but there is relatively little other research activity in this sector in the Federal Republic of Germany. Scientists all over the world plan international cooperation under the heading Hugo, short for human genome organisation.**

Scientists all over the world plan international cooperation under the heading Hugo, short for human genome organisation.

The following comparisons may convey some idea of the complexity of a human genome chart:

There are an estimated 3,000 letters on the closely printed page of a book. A bulky book may contain 1,000 pages.

One thousand books of this size correspond to the three billion or so units of information the human genome contains.

The ethical assessment of predictive medicine is closely

associated with evaluation of the risks and opportunities it involves.

First, the opportunities. Genome analysis as a prerequisite for predictive medicine will certainly extend our knowledge about mankind.

It is basic research and as such will be of significance over and above its practical uses in predictive medicine.

Comparison of different creatures will hopefully reveal more about the course of evolution. But even as basic research genome analysis is not ethically neutral, the uses to which it might be put must constantly be borne in mind.

Complaints that are attributable to interaction be-

comes.

This, for instance, could amount to a genetic test and counselling before pregnancy that are no different, in principle, from conventional family planning advice.

If a genetic risk were found to exist the consequences would need to be clarified with the person or persons concerned in each and every case. Pregnancy might have to be ruled out.

The risks are another matter, especially where a complaint is predicted for which no treatment or cure is yet available.

In such cases a genetically unsatisfactory diagnosis would pose serious problems for both the doctor and his patient.

Is there no such thing as the right to a secret — a secret from others and from oneself? What is more in keeping with human dignity: to know or not to know that you are about to suffer from an incurable disease?

Social acceptance of illness and disability could well, sad to say, decline still further in the wake of predictive medicine. Illness and disability could be prevented.

Abortions are already carried out as a result of ante-natal checks. A sick or disabled child is not accepted, and ethically speaking, that is a most disturbing development, one that cannot simply be accepted.

The further development of predictive medicine would provide yet another opportunity of reducing the complexity of illness to a handful of individual factors.

The cause of a complaint would be transferred to the individual and come to be regarded as personal, individual destiny.

Other factors, such as an environment that makes people ill, would tend to be neglected. The patient would be

personally to blame for his illness.

There would also be a risk of people being classified — and discriminated against — in accordance with specific criteria. They might, for instance, be banned from doing work that was a personal health hazard.

In other words, the job would not be adapted to suit the individual; the genetically suitable individual would be chosen to do the job.

Insurance companies might refuse to insure people who were found to be high-risk cases — or at least charge them higher premiums.

People might come to be seen in biological terms, in terms of their genetic make-up. That is sure to clash with the holistic Christian view of the individual.

Given these risks and opportunities, how is one to assess predictive medicine? There would not seem to be much point in rejecting it on principle.

It could prevent much suffering, especially by more effectively preventing illness. But the ethical, social and legal aspects of each and every use must be assessed in advance.

The greater the leeway that is open to man, the greater his responsibility. Progress is always ambivalent. Risks and opportunities must always be weighed against each other.

Sickness, suffering and death are a part of life. Religious belief lends a helping hand. Christians expect salvation from God, not from technology or from medicine. He alone, in the final analysis, can bring salvation.

That utopia of a new and better individual that runs like a clue of thread throughout human history will not come true as a result of either genome analysis or predictive medicine — Rheinischer Merkur.

**There are no official statistics on the number of drug addicts in China, but in Yunnan alone the number is at least in the thousands.**

"Not long ago we had no heroin use but in the last few years this became a serious problem," Chen said.

Chinese police seized nearly 293 kilograms of heroin last year — more than double the amount in 1988.

Courts sentenced 69 people to death for drug trafficking in Yunnan last year and many more were jailed. A poster on a Kunming street announces the execution late last month of one man caught with 1.7 kilograms of heroin.

In the town of Jinghong, about 70 kilometres from Burma, similar notices posted outside the court house proclaim jail terms of up to eight years for five men convicted of drug trafficking. Photographs show them, on trial, their heads bowed and policemen at their side.

There are no official statistics on the number of drug addicts in China, but in Yunnan alone the number is at least in the thousands. There are 538 patients at three officially sponsored drug treatment centres in the province, health officials said.

Medical clinics also treat addicts, and police have other detoxification centres, little more than locked rooms where addicts lie in painful withdrawal, said people familiar with the drug trade.

A doctor at a treatment centre said many users are unwilling to seek help, fearing they will be turned over to police.

"There are many more of them," said a nurse.

Among those who turn drugs are relatively wealthy private businessmen as well as unemployed and disaffected youths, health officials said.

drugs on his 13- and 15-year-old children travelling with him.

Drugs are later transported to Guangdong province, along the southern coast, where they are loaded aboard fishing boats or cargo ships to the neighbouring British colony of Hong Kong and eventually reach their final markets such as the United States.

Although in Kunming heroin is smoked, many users along the border are injecting drugs. Sharing needles has led to another threat — AIDS.

In Ruili, with a population of 80,000, tests on 1,000 drug users found 146 AIDS carriers although none had contracted the disease itself.

China is being forced to spend more time and money on fighting drugs. It has formed a 1,300-man task force to combat drugs in Yunnan alone and is training customs officials in detection.

New regulations, effective this year, allow local authorities to set up treatment centres, and police can force drug users to accept treatment.

Police, however, maintain their Socialist system gives them special immunity from some of the darker aspects of narcotics, insisting there is no official involvement in the trade.

"We have a different social system than the West," said Chen. "Because of our Socialist system, we don't have corrupt police."

But the lucrative business already mocks some of China's Communist values. Over the doorway of a cafe known to be a drug centre, a banner exhorts people to study Lei Feng, a selfless soldier hailed as a model of Marxist virtue.



## Couriers — modern Hermes or 'time vs. time-sensitive'

By Ica Wabbeh  
Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — Remember "1001 nights" with the benevolent giant genies who move people and things with the speed of thought? Or Aladdin's lamp? You wish it, you get it.

Well, it is somewhere along these lines that express courier services have sprung up. But the marked difference is that the average person in the street knows very little about the system, and most of those who use it are too busy to figure out how it works.

It is common these days in Amman streets to see dozens of small cars bearing the signs "DHL" or "TNT/Skykypak" or "Aramex."

What do they stand for, and what do they do?

Quite simply, if you have an urgent document in original or material (barring certain categories) to be rushed to New York, then it is time to contact one of the international courier. It's something like the good old pony express; the man collects the mail from your doorstep and delivers it to its destination by hand.

But, instead of ponies, today's couriers use high-speed aircraft.

In the case of TNT, the idea of an express courier system can be traced back to the initiative of an enterprising Australian who in 1946 was delivering newspapers on domestic level.

The operation must have been worthwhile as the basis for Thomas Nationwide Transportation (TNT) was set.

In case of DHL, the international air express industry was started 20 years by three men: Dalsey (D), Hillblom (H) and Lynn (L). They saw the advantage of cargo manifests arriving in port before the ships, resulting in speedier cargo clearance and reduced costs and so, gradually expanding, DHL became the first company to offer a comprehensive, door-to-door service.

"From this initial impetus grew the global industry of international express delivery of time sensitive documents and small packages," the officials at DHL say.

An alternative to the TNT and DHL is the Arab-Aramex, which describes Jordan as its jumping board.

Established only seven years ago, Aramex claims it has proved itself a "valid" competitor in the delivery network in the Mideast and the Arab World.

**'Speed and reliability'**

The key characteristics of an international air express service, according to the companies as well as their clientele, are a worldwide service combined with speed, security and reliability of delivery since information has become more time critical and more valuable in a society fast transforming itself into service-oriented.

As the internationalisation of world markets increased, so did thinking in terms of global strategies to exploit the full potential of world trade and services.

As a result, communication became crucial, and there the express couriers stepped in to fill the gap. All these changes created an environment propitious for the development of the international air express sector. And indeed it boomed.

According to Cameron Grant, general manager for Amman DHL office, the company now owns 110 aircraft, making it the 16th largest airline in the world. Four of the planes operate in the Middle East. The company has 900 offices in over 190 countries and 20,000 employees worldwide; it makes use of helicopters, cars, trucks, even motorcycles for delivery.

"One crucial question is: How long does it take a letter handed over to a courier in Amman to reach its destination?"

It depends on the region. As Grant put it: "DHL focuses heavily on staffing its offices with DHL staff; that is, we are concentrating on the ratio of owner-operated outlets as opposed to having agents-operated outlets. This gives DHL more control over the customers' shipments and helps us focus on global standards and performances such as our promise of next day pre-10.30 delivery to the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and Europe."

What about other regions? "No more than two days unless there is a public holiday or bad weather conditions," Grant replied.

The general manager for TNT Skykypak International in Amman, Bassam Shaker, spoke with pride and commitment about the company.

TNT's main business till 1982 was big parcels. In 1982 it bought Skykypak (an English division) and it became a full service courier. There are 43 divisions under TNT. The company now owns 72 aircraft and has 727 offices in 184 countries. Over 50,000 people work for it. TNT also owns 63 ships and 60,000 trucks. The average mail per week is 185,000 shipments. Time for delivery: Between 24-72 hours.

Aramex President Fadi Ghandour could not be reached in person, but from the material put at the Jordan Times' disposition (quotes included), the company offers its Arab clientele "excellent delivery times at cost-conscious and very competitive prices."

Deputies Fares Nabulsi (Amman) and Salim Zobi (Ramtha), who are both lawyers, said that according to Article 82 of the Constitution, the House proposes the topics it wants to debate as part of the memo sent to the King requesting an extraordinary session. They both insisted on holding on to the original agenda, while accommodating government proposals according to their merit as perceived by the House.

Deputy Hussein Mjalli (Jerash), also a lawyer, reminded the House that it was the King who decides the topics to be tackled by the House in an extraordinary session as well as the length of the session.

Deputy Thouran Hindawi (Irbid) agreed with the legal opinion presented by Mjalli, Zobi and Nabulsi, and added that the King would only be considering proposals for the agenda without any commitment on his part to include any particular topic in his decree setting the agenda for an extraordinary session. However, Jammoh interjected to explain that the purpose of Wednesday's meeting session was for the government to "consult" the House on the topics it wants on the agenda so that it responds to their request.

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Aramex services over 30 cities and communities in the Middle and Near East, with its own offices and stations in all Arab countries. Jordan is Aramex's head office and "jumping board to the area."

According to Ghandour: "The Middle East is some years behind in the express industry and it cannot be made into an easy market either politically or economically. We have to continue to grow on our own inertia and, possibly, in cooperation with the four or five big express boys who want to dominate the world today. But we have built a considerable network and we have the determination to become the number one in the Middle East."

A big accomplishment for the company was the conclusion of an agreement with Federal Express, a U.S. company, to handle Fed-Ex consignments in the Middle East. "Winning this business was the jewel in Aramex crown. To us Fed-Ex is finally the stamp of approval," according to Ghandour.

**'Things in the Middle East'**

How things work in the Middle East was made clear by Grant of DHL. The regional sorting centre is in Bahrain. All parcels pass through Bahrain where they are checked, sorted, loaded on or off planes for subsequent delivery.

DHL has nine hubs (regional offices) around the world; TNT has five.

"Doesn't having to send mail first to Bahrain delay the whole process?"

No, said Grant. "It gives us continuity, and guarantees for time sensitive deliveries," he said.

What can be sent through international air express? Almost everything within certain limits. There are blanket restrictions on items including: hazardous or combustible materials, firearms, valuables, jewellery, currency, also obscene material.

There is no limit to the total shipment, but individual package weight differs (for DHL, for example, it is 30 kg).

**'High cost but high returns'**

The cost also differs by destination. Some "snooping" showed that the cost was some-

where in the range of JD32 to 38 per half a kilogramme. Not little, the advantages include speedy, door-to-door delivery, and customs facilities (fast clearance), to mention the obvious ones. More subtle advantages are felt by banks (for whom a pre-noon delivery means a full-day interest added) or less developed countries which are enabled to enter a new country or market with limited investments by using express service to deliver samples for sales personnel and then the goods ordered by the customer.

The early major users of air express services were banks and finance houses where delay in delivery of cheques and promissory notes entailed considerable financial loss. But with the growth of air express industry, it seems customers started making more systematic use (as opposed to emergency) of this speedy service.

Is it enough to send the parcels and cash the money? "Door-to-door (person to person) delivery is very important and consistent checks are made to see the consignments in progress — for the client's peace of mind," DHL official said.

**Technology, technology**

Skykypak receives daily computer sheets from the centre (Bahrain). DHL, on the other hand, boasts a unique Lasernet computer confirmation system whose wonder-wand-like works were fully demonstrated by Grant.

The microcomputer, the size of a hand gun, builds up a complete record of the shipment's progress, from time of pick-up to name of signatory at final delivery. Airbill number, destination, actual location in transit, pick-up and delivery time are all given at the touch of a button. The microcomputer works, to make it simpler to understand, somehow like the device that registers the registers the prices on products at a store. You actually see the laser beam travelling across the airbill code-bars. It stores the data and when nestled in the main computer (in a niche specially designed to fit) a simple "play" on the keyboard will display everything you need to know about the consignment. Ingenious and simple at first sight, but it is actually high-tech, satellite coordination, qualified staff and a significant amount of money invested.

As for staff, all three companies seem to attach great importance to having the best. They are continually trained, appraised, given incentives. What Ghandour said, could, on a wider scale, be applied to the others as well:

"...Management trainee programme selects (Jordanian) university graduates, trains them for months off and on-the-job in various departments, then posts them in out-stations abroad with full responsibility to function and produce creatively."



With posters and demonstrations, opponents of the U.S. bases in the Philippines have mounted a strident campaign as negotiations on the future of the bases progress (WNL).

## Filipino emotions take over as talks begin over bases

MANILA (WNL) — "The world is unkind. Everything has changed, all the old signposts are gone," says the compact, animated woman as she takes a break from a seemingly endless evening session of the Filipino Senate.

"I mean, who is the threat now?" she asks. "China? Japan? I think we have to talk to them. The era of confrontation is over."

Leticia Ramos Shahani — head of the Philippine Senate Foreign Relations Committee, doctor of comparative literature, former ambassador and United Nations official, sister of Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos — thinks there's no longer any reason to have U.S. military bases on Philippine soil. Siding with her is a majority of the 23-member Senate, which must approve any new agreement on the bases.

With negotiations under way on what will happen after the current \$481 million a year lease agreement expires, it seems that emotions are speaking louder than facts in Filipino political circles. After asking for yearly payments of \$2 billion a year as rent for two bases — Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base — home to about 18,000 U.S. servicemen, most local politicians are now seeing the bases as the superfluous symbol of an unequal "special relationship" between Washington and Manila.

While other countries in Southeast Asia view the presence of U.S. military facilities here as a regional security issue, to many Filipinos — from peasants to coup-plotters to mainstream politicians — it has always been tied up with wrenching questions about national identity. And while the financial, strategic and social impact of the bases still inspires heated debate — the bases produce 5 per cent of the country's gross national product and are the largest employer after the government — discussions of the issue almost always boil down to the word "sovereignty."

"Unfortunately, what the Americans don't understand is that their presence here is overwhelming," Shahani, a moderate member of President Corason Aquino's ruling coalition, says. She adds that the removal of the bases might be just the challenge her country needs. The Philippines, once one of Asia's richest countries, has failed to develop significantly since the 1950s, in spite of billions of dollars in aid from the United States and other donors.

Shahani scoffs at those who believe that Filipino politicians, in their vocal opposition to the continuation of the base agreement, are merely bluffing in order to get more money. "We're not talking in terms of compensation," she says. "Sovereignty is the overriding issue. Although we are poor, we won't collapse when the bases leave. We will suffer maybe, but we won't disappear under the sea."

Paradoxically, as Filipino politicians turn on the heat to get rid of the bases, they may find that there is no pot to boil. As part of its policy of cutting overseas troops and reducing its military budget — \$200 billion is to be chopped out of the military services programmes by 1997 — the U.S. is already looking at alternatives to maintaining the Clark and Subic bases. The U.S. Pacific Command has even drawn up plans to pull out within a year and relocate some facilities to Guam.

Experts say that the Clark Air Base could be replicated relatively cheaply, but relocating facilities at Subic Bay would be more costly: the naval base can support combat operations of several carrier battle groups and logistics for naval operations throughout the Western Pacific and Indian oceans.

Besides the Philippines, the U.S. military presence in East Asia and the Pacific consists of about 50,000 troops in Japan and 43,000 in South Korea. After a recent trip to Asia, U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney announced that both countries had agreed to a 10 per cent cut in troops stationed there. Also, Tokyo will increase its share of the \$7.5 billion cost of maintain-

ing U.S. forces in Japan to more than 40 per cent.

U.S. troops will also be cut in Western Europe, and at home. Congress is debating the closing of about 120 military bases within the U.S.

The prospect of seeing a much-reduced U.S. military presence in the Pacific is disquieting for newly prosperous Asian nations. While the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) has made no formal statement on the Philippines bases, individual countries have indicated their desire to see a strong U.S. profile in the region. Reasons range from a fear of Chinese and North Korean military expansion to a concern that Japan's economic dominance may extend into the military vacuum left by an American departure.

For Senator Shahani, Philippine concerns should come before regional concerns, although she acknowledges that there are important security issues to confront. "We have to talk about an international convention to guard our sea lanes, if that's what the stronger powers are afraid of," she says.

The Philippine concern about sovereignty and identity goes back many years. The archipelago became an American colony in 1899, at a time when nationalists had just wrested power from Spain which left a legacy of political dominance by a small circle of the very rich — mostly landowners with massive holdings. Independence was secured in 1946 and the first agreement on the bases was signed a year later. Periodic reviews produced a series of amendments, the last one dating back to 1988, when after much nationalist posturing the negotiations came to centre on the question of money.

The "compensation package" is still a major area of disagreement between the U.S. and the Philippines — not only the level of compensation, but the definition as well. While Japan and South Korea pay a substantial portion of the costs of supporting the U.S. presence in their coun-

tries, the Philippines is the third largest recipient of U.S. aid. Manila would like to see much of the aid it receives considered rent, while Washington prefers to view it as military and development assistance for an ally and holds that the question of the bases' future should be separate from the payment issue.

Under the 1988 agreement renewal guaranteeing \$481 million a year plus other aid, the Philippines is receiving \$200 million for military assistance programmes, \$160 million for an economic support fund, \$40 million for development assistance, \$50 million for food aid, \$25 million for housing investment, and \$6 million for transport projects.

President Aquino is standing by previous statements that she is "keeping her options open" despite recent pressure by Senate members to come up with a more decisive approach as negotiations progress. "The period for that is over; the moment of truth is approaching," says Shahani.

While most observers acknowledge that the average Filipino still favours the retention of the bases, Senator Shahani counters that people are simply uninformed. A common argument put forward by opponents of the bases is that, since the upheaval in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union's belt tightening because of severe economic problems, there is no longer any real threat to the regional security in Asia.

Another factor is that educated urban Filipinos have long felt ambivalent about their close ties to the U.S. Proud of their ability to adapt to Western ways, they have had little success from which to draw inspiration at home. Their own efforts stifled by poverty and corruption, they have watched other Asian countries pass them by on the road to economic success.

"We Filipinos, have a right to think for ourselves. We have a right to be global, to be universal. America is so far away!" exclaims Shahani.

## Vote against limited agenda

(Continued from page 1)  
provisional law on investment incentives.

Speaking at the session held in a meeting hall in the parliament's building, Speaker Suleiman Arar said that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct an information discussion to determine whether deputies would rather limit the issues on the agenda or prefer to give priority to some of the topics.

Islamic Brotherhood Deputy Youssef Azem (Ma'an) supported the proposal, saying that some provisional laws such as the one on higher education requires a lengthy and extensive debate that is better left for the next ordinary session to allow time in the extraordinary session for matters that are of more pressing nature.

Jammoh responded by saying that priorities and topics of discussion could not be determined after the King issues the Royal Decree approving the extraordinary session. He noted that it was the King who decides which topics are to be included on the agenda of the session, in accordance with the Constitution.

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Oil ministers begin emergency talks to try to mop up glut

# OPEC tries to cut output, raise prices

GENEVA (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers began emergency talks on Wednesday voicing hopes they could soon agree on production cuts to mop up a glut and raise prices.

The 13 members of OPEC agree on one thing: They are producing too much oil and this has flooded the market and cut prices by 25 per cent.

But now they must face the difficult decision of which member state should turn down the taps and by how much? In informal soundings, the Algerian president of OPEC, Abdelkader Boudiaf, asked those countries which are exceeding their mandated quotas how much they would be prepared to contribute to a round of production cuts.

busting by three Gulf Arab producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, was said by delegates to be upset at being singled out. It says its policy is simply to defend its traditional share of just under 25 per cent of whatever OPEC produces.

Cuts by other above-quota sellers, including Nigeria and Venezuela, could therefore be expected to bring an automatic decline in Saudi volume.

Iraq thinks OPEC output may have to be cut as low as 22 million barrels per day (BPD) from a recent peak around 24.

Delegates said the Saudis seemed flexible but may think that OPEC output in May and

June at between 22.5 and 23 million would be a reasonable goal.

A statement Tuesday by the Saudi minister, Hisham Nazer, that he favoured higher prices, helped add 27 cents to New York futures for the U.S. benchmark crude, west Texas intermediate (WTI), which ended Tuesday at \$18.81 per barrel.

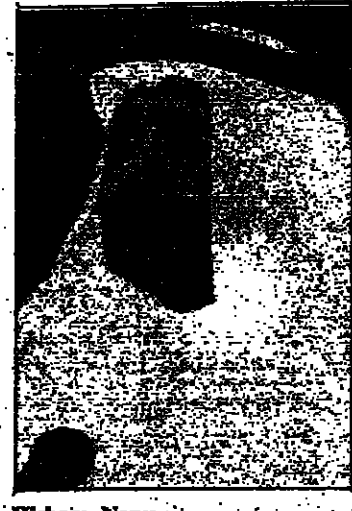
Western industry sources said the Saudis, historic advocates of moderate oil prices, were not unhappy to see WTI drop in recent weeks from near \$24 in January.

But delegates said Saudi Arabia now wants a stable market and favours measures later this year to solve the problem of chronic quota-breaking by Kuwait and the UAE.

The basic of any Saudi-brokered deal in Geneva could be that Kuwait and the UAE consent to cut output now in return for an understanding that they will be allocated bigger quotas when OPEC meets again late in June to decide pricing and production policy for the second half of 1990, some delegates said.

The 35-minute opening plenary session of the talks adjourned and was to resume on Wednesday evening after more bilateral talks of the kind with which OPEC deals are usually sorted out.

Under OPEC members Iraq and Iran, needing cash to rebuild after their Gulf war, and many debt-laden third world oil states in and outside OPEC are angry about the recent fall in prices. Egypt, not an OPEC member,



Hisham Nazer

is said by Middle East diplomats to have been furious at having to cut its prices by around \$2 in mid-April.

It is now gambling on a successful OPEC meeting and has already raised oil prices \$0.45 per barrel from May 1.

## German monetary union details agreed

EAST BERLIN (R) — East and West Germany have reached a compromise on monetary union that would allow older East Germans to swap up to 6,000 marks (\$3,570) at par and younger people less, an East German spokesman said Wednesday.

Bonn had originally suggested an across-the-board swap of 4,000 marks (\$2,350) for all savings at one-to-one, with further amounts further amounts exchanged at two-to-one, when it introduced the powerful West German mark in East Germany July 2.

Announcing the agreement, East German government official Matthias Gehler also told reporters that West German tourists would be able to exchange money at two-to-one rather than the current rate of three-to-one.

The question of how much of their nearly worthless currency East Germans would be able to exchange at a favourable rate has dominated the debate about monetary union.

Gehler said the amount for children up to 14 years old would be dropped to 2,000 (\$1,190). The new 6,000-mark ceiling would apply to people 60 or older.

Government sources said earlier that the deal would allow Bonn to offer an improved package, especially for older people who have saved for years to supplement their meagre pensions, while avoiding any extra costs for West Germany.

East Germany has been pressing for a better deal ever since Bonn unveiled its offer to swap 4,000 marks savings at a one-to-one rate.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been eager to help his fellow Christian Democrats in the East German government as they approach local elections Sunday.

Several influential economic officials, including Finance Minister Theo Waigel and (Central) Bundesbank head Karl Otto Poehl, argued that Bonn's offer was already the furthest it could go without over-burdening the West German economy.

Their concern reflects fears that by printing marks for the conversion, West Germany will fuel inflation, Europe's lowest, and be forced to raise interest rates to defend the Deutsche mark in a move with repercussions across the continent.

## S. African investors cautious as power-sharing talks begin

By Rory Channing  
Kuter

JOHANNESBURG — South African investors, wary of blacks having a bigger say in running the economy, are taking a cautious attitude as white rulers meet black leaders this week for landmark talks on power sharing.

Nelson Mandela, deputy leader of the African National Congress (ANC), helped to dispel some of the jitters that have recently gripped the business community when, a week ago, he appeared to soften his commitment to nationalism.

"In a sense it's a very hopeful sign," said John Rogers, a partner with stockbrokers Edey, Rogers and Co. Inc.

"It is a signal that the ANC may be prepared to take a more flexible line," he added, echoing the views of other analysts.

Mandela's remarks, in which he said the ANC favoured nationalisation only if it strengthened the economy, helped share prices on the Johannesburg stock exchange to recover some of the sharp losses suffered in recent weeks.

The exchange's overall index, after falling to 2,976 on Wednesday last week — the same level at which it started 1990 — had recovered to 3,066 in morning trade a week later, before the start of the so-called "talks about talks" on power sharing to be held in Cape Town from Wednesday to Friday.

But this remained well below

the year's peak of 3,392 on March 20.

On Tuesday the ANC said in a statement issued in Zimbabwe that it might re-nationalise state companies now being privatised in South Africa if it came to power.

The present climate contrasts with the euphoria which met sweeping political reforms made three months ago by President F. W. de Klerk, followed nine days later by Mandela's release.

Those events triggered strong buying of shares by both foreign and local investors hopeful that efforts to dismantle apartheid would promote greater internal stability and ease South Africa's international isolation.

The more sombre mood now reflects an acceptance that negotiations on any deal to give the five-to-one black majority full political rights could be arduous.

Also damaging to investor sentiment has been the slump in world prices for gold, fears until recently of an increase in local interest rates, and a slowdown in the economy.

So has Mandela's repeated commitment to armed struggle and an upsurge in black unrest throughout the country since de Klerk unveiled his reforms on Feb. 2.

"The euphoria has given way to uncertainty," said South African Chamber of Business economist Keith Lockwood.

He said that, although Mandela's recent comments on nationalisation, repeated by other ANC



F.W. de Klerk

supporters, showed some flexibility, it's still hanging over the heads of business. They haven't said they won't nationalise."

The financial radar, a restricted currency designed to encourage foreign investment and a barometer of foreign confidence, on Wednesday showing a loss of around one fifth of its value against the dollar since Mandela's release.

The stock exchange index for gold shares stood at 1,711 in morning trade Wednesday, 20 points higher than at the time of Mandela's remarks on nationalisation a week previously.

But, because of a low world gold price and local political uncertainties, it remained far below the 2,049 at which it started 1990 and its peak this year of 2,250 on Feb. 2.

Mandela said April 25 the ANC would commission experts



Nelson Mandela

to study the nationalisation of mines, banks and monopolies, and if their findings did not encourage nationalisation, the movement would listen carefully to their advice.

He added that the organisation, the main movement fighting white minority rule, was not opposed to capitalism and sectors of the economy which were not nationalised would operate on a free-enterprise basis.

The respected business day newspaper Monday underlined dangers posed by the absence of a clear policy on an issue which analysts say has scared off foreign investors.

"The longer the threat of nationalisation is kept alive, the longer capital flight will continue and the longer investment in manufacturing and job creation will be put off," it said in an editorial.

## German industry's hopes, fears aired at Hanover fair

HANOVER (R) — The world's largest trade fair opened in Hanover Wednesday with West German industry keen to profit from German unification but still fretting over the potential costs.

"The growing together of West and Eastern Europe is a big challenge for German industry," West German chancellor Helmut Kohl said at the fair's opening ceremony.

His government believes private industry holds the key to revitalising East Germany. But West German industrialists, enjoying bumper profits, still believe Bonn will have to step in to bear some of the burden.

"East German industry stands at the beginning of a difficult transitional phase," said Helmut Werner, head of the truck division of West Germany's biggest company, Daimler-Benz AG.

Daimler signed a cooperation agreement with IFA, East Germany's largest truck maker, in March and plans to unveil its first jointly designed truck prototype Thursday.

Although Daimler can help East Germany to modernise its products, Werner said West Ger-

man industry could not restore East German industry could not restore East German industry's financial solvency.

East Germany's centrally planned economy allowed companies to run up huge debts with the state bank. Many of these firms will find repayments difficult once they are converted into West German marks under German monetary union on July 2.

"The old debts... cannot be handled by West or East German industry," Daimler-Benz's Werner told reporters.

His concern was echoed at the same news conference by IFA officials.

"It won't be possible for many East German companies to survive monetary union without government help," said Lothar Heinzmann, chief executive of the East German truck maker.

East Germany's government has said that 20 per cent of the country's industry has no future once it has to compete directly against Western firms after monetary union.

But Kohl said West German industry could hardly be in better shape to deal with East Germany's economic woes.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 2, 1990  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.3	424.8
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Dutch guilder	333.3	335.4
Pound Sterling	1097.9	1104.5	Swedish crown	109.6	110.3
Deutsche mark	397.4	399.8	Italian lire (for 100)	54.3	54.6
Swiss franc	458.7	461.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	192.7	193.9
French franc	118.5	119.2			

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6340/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.6405/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.1660/70	Deutsche marks	
	1.8950/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.4600/10	Swiss francs	
	34.76/81	Belgian francs	
	5.6490/6540	French francs	
	1235/1236	Italian lire	
	157.90/158.00	Japanese yen	
	6.1025/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.5285/5335	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4085/4135	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	370.10/370.60	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended higher, with the benchmark index closing above 30,000 for the first time since April 20, on the last day of trading before a four-day weekend. The Nikkei closed at 30,173.64, up 483.81 points.

SYDNEY — The Market closed sharply higher on buying from offshore investors and local bargain hunters. The All Ordinaries Index soared 22.3 points, or 1.5 per cent, to end at 1462.9.

HONG KONG — Shares ended firmer as bargain hunters returned to the market. The Hang Seng Index rose 8.52 to 1,942.43.

SINGAPORE — Prices ended mixed in lethargic trading as bargain hunting towards the close pared early losses. The Straits Times Industrial Index shed 0.22 point to end at 1,438.18.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange index touched 800.01 in early trade then fell to 786.21, down 8.92 points on the day. "The market is fickle-hearted," a broker commented. "There's always nervousness when the index touches 800."

FRANKFURT — Foreign investors returned after three weeks of declining prices. The Dax Index rose 30.16 in thin trade to close at 1,843.41.

ZURICH — Interest concentrated on special situations. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index closed 4.9 points firmer at 1,048.9.

PARIS — Blue chips led the market upwards but trade remained light. The CAC-40 index gained 19.57 points to 2,066.03.

LONDON — Wall Street's firmer start helped the FTSE index gain 19.7 to 2,137.6.

NEW YORK — Blue chips shrugged off negative economic news. At 1711 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 11.94 to 2,680.86.

## U.N. adopts landmark economic declaration

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly has ended a special session on economic cooperation by adopting a wide-ranging declaration that has been hailed as a landmark and unprecedented.

The document, accepted by every member Tuesday, was aimed at boosting the economies of developing nations. But it also reflected the decline of communist ideologies, the weak economic position of developing states — and the desire to arrive at a consensus that included the United States.

In the past, declarations about the north-south conflict have been passed by the assembly's Third World majority, with support from the Soviet Union and Eastern European states and over the objections of Washington and some of its allies.

"They could have put out any (document) they wanted to," a

U.S. official told reporters. "But they wanted us — not the European Community — but us... us and Japan."

The United States, the largest contributor of foreign aid, succeeded in keeping several concrete proposals it did not like out of the document.

Defeated also was a call for wealthier nations to forgive the debts of more than 40 of the world's poorest states.

And Washington dissociated itself from a reaffirmation of U.N. goals for industrial nations to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to the Third World.

Said a U.N. official: "Developing countries are in such a position of weakness they are unable to think in medium and long-term and need to address their immediate survival."

With references to open-mar-

ket economies, political pluralism and human rights, the document committed nations urgently to promote economic growth in the Third World in order to realise "the basic right of all human beings to a life free from hunger, poverty, ignorance, disease and fear."

It also called for durable and broad solutions to debt problems, environmentally sound development policies, a reduction of military expenditures, an end to protectionism and a recognition by developed nations to consider the impact of their fiscal policies on the Third World.

Low profile

Many positive references were made to the high-profile revolutions in Eastern Europe — with the proviso that their needs should not "detract from the high priority placed on international development cooperation with the developing countries."

## Morocco devalues dirham by 10 per cent

RABAT (R) — Morocco has devalued the dirham by an average of 10 per cent, the country's central bank, Bank Al Maghrib, told commercial banks Wednesday.

The new rate against the dollar was 8.85 dirhams compared to 8.04 dirhams April 25, when banks closed for six days because of public holidays. That represents a devaluation of about 9.15 per cent.

The French franc was now worth 1.57 dirhams against 1.41, and the pound sterling 14.53 dirhams against 13.14.

The devaluation was not publicly announced by the finance ministry. Commercial banks were informed of the new rates by Bank Al Maghrib in a telex message marked "very urgent."

The Moroccan authorities have been urged to devalue by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as part of a financial re-adjustment programme.

The programme is designed to straighten out the country's finances currently burdened by a foreign debt estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion.

Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada was expected to comment on the devaluation at a news conference later Wednesday.

Moroccan debt prices rose sharply on the secondary market for sovereign loans in response to the country's proposed rescheduling agreement last month with leading foreign bank creditors.

## Taiwan's stock exchange battered by political fears

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's stock market, unstable at the best of times, has fallen dramatically this week as rumours of financial collapse among the market's big players and hints of political instability take their toll on uneasy investors.

Share prices, battered by two consecutive days of sharp losses, bottomed out again Wednesday, pushing the index down more than five per cent until a last-minute buy-in by shaken brokerage houses pulled the market off its lows.

The index finished down 160.39 points at 8,574.54, but brokers said the market, which has lost 1,090 points, or 11 per cent, since Saturday, was not out of the woods yet.

"Investors now will panic at anything. No one has faith in the

market anymore," said Hsu Daw-Yi, vice president of King's Securities Investment Consulting Corporation.

The market's slide began Saturday, when hints of a deepening rift between President Lee Teng-Hui and Premier Lee Huan first began to surface in the local press.

Lee Teng-Hui, Taiwan's first native-born leader, is due to make new cabinet appointments before he is inaugurated to his first full term as president May 20.

He has hinted he may not retain Lee Huan, a strong political force in his own right and representative of more conservative elements in the ruling Nationalist Party, who are reportedly unhappy with Lee Teng-Hui's leadership style.

"Political instability is the main reason for the market's current drop," said Daniel Chiang, vice president of International Investment Trust.

The downward trend was accelerated in early trading on Wednesday amid rumours that some of the market's shadowy "big players," who in the past have helped to engineer rapid gains on the bourse, were in financial trouble, dealers said.

"The rumours have helped to make people even more nervous," Hsu said, adding that nobody really knew how the big players' finances stand.

Dealers said brokerage houses and institutional investors moved into the market in the final minutes to save the index from yet another huge drop.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Last week Stanley did two sit-ups. He's still trying to catch his breath."

### JUMBLE

by Herf Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAYES

OPYPP

AROTTE

PAPNYS

Best to let him think it was his idea.

A WOMAN MAY BE THE REASON WHY A MAN SUPPOSES HE DOES THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: PEONY MOURN BEYOND PUZZLE

Answer: If you watch too much football, you might wear out this—YOUR "END" ZONE

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by George Ughurt

ACROSS

1 Spotted cavy

5 Phase

9 Monetary

14 Lab substance

15 By way of

16 Delinquent

17 Merciless

19 King of Crete

20 Pipe joint

22 Baby's walk

23 Return to public view

26 Watches

27 Fighting

28 Mistakes

31 Moves with little effort

33 Pivot

34 Bakery item

37 Dispatching

38 Shakespeare tragedy

41 45 inches

42 Secular

44 Unilateral in biology

45 Plasterboard need

7 Regions

8 Place

10 Vapor prefix

11 Peace back

12 Sale condition

13 Only school

14 Affirmatives

15 With gusto

16 Specified and rainbow

17 Bridge seat

18 Woody's son

19 Land measure

20 Adjust the alarm

21 Bore

22 Autocrat

23 Treachery



SPORTS IN BRIEF

Antwerp appeals against ban, fine

BRUSSELS (R) — Antwerp has appealed against a 15-month ban imposed by the European Football Union (UEFA) on midfielder Patrick Schrooten for drug taking. Antwerp Secretary General Louis Wouters said the Belgian club had also appealed against a 50,000 Swiss franc (\$34,000) fine imposed on it over the Schrooten case. Urine samples taken from Schrooten after Antwerp's UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg match against Cologne in March showed the presence of amphetamines. "We will not just appeal against the fine but also against the ban of Schrooten, although we will not challenge the urine tests were positive," Wouters told Reuters by telephone. He said Antwerp would base their case on the damage the loss of one of their key players for more than a year would cause. Schrooten, 27, denies he took drugs but has decided not to appeal personally. "The penalty can only get worse if I appeal. Moreover, it costs a lot of money to appeal and I would also have to pay my trip to Switzerland for the hearings," Schrooten was quoted by Belgian newspapers as saying.

Lazaroni to quit in July

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian national soccer team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni says he will resign after the World Cup and return to coaching a club, possibly Fiorentina of the Italian league. "After this cup, I'm leaving the team," Lazaroni has said. "The exhaustion (of coaching a national team) is great and in July I will return to working with a club." Lazaroni has been frustrated recently by the refusal of some European and Brazilian teams to release their players for World Cup training and hopes to go to Florence. "God willing, I'll sign a deal," he said. Brazil faces Bulgaria in an exhibition game Saturday but Lazaroni said he would name a starting team Thursday. "First, I have to see what condition the players arrive in and then I'll start to use them," he said.

Liverpool bitter banishes memories

LONDON (R) — As Liverpool celebrated their record 18th English league soccer title, manager Kenny Dalglish finally banished the bitter memories of last season. And, in a more serious vein, he allowed himself the luxury of contemplating what next season might bring. "It's a better feeling than last year," the normally taciturn Dalglish joked after his team had clinched the title by beating Queen's Park Rangers 2-1 at Anfield Saturday. Last season, Dalglish was forced to watch in dismay as his team handed away the title to Arsenal on goal difference in the final minutes of the last match of the season. This year's win — beating their own record — was their seventh championship in the last 10 years and inevitably prompted Dalglish to think of a possible return to Europe. "At least we have got the opportunity," the former Anfield star said. "We have qualified. We have just got to let the administrators decide what is best for football."

"We have qualified for the European Cup as champions... and we deserve to be champions of England," he said. English clubs were banned from competing in Europe after 39 fans, mostly Italians, died at the European Cup final in Brussels' Heysel Stadium in 1985. Liverpool, who were playing Juventus of Italy, were given an extra three-year ban. But newly-elected UEFA President Lennart Johansson said last week he was optimistic the ban could be lifted for next season and indicated that Liverpool could be included. Dalglish also confessed he had been a little premature in celebrating his team's much-awaited victory. After sending his players out for a lap of honour, he discovered he had inadvertently jumped the gun and second-placed Aston Villa were still in action against Norwich. "We were told it had finished," he said. Liverpool knew the championship was theirs if Villa, who started the day two points behind and had one match remaining after Saturday, failed to win at home to Norwich. "When we got into the dressing room we realised there were still a few minutes to go. It could have been a little embarrassing," said Swedish international defender Glenn Hysen. In the end the slip proved to be merely an act of foresight as Villa self-destructed 11 minutes from the end. After falling behind to an early Norwich goal, Villa went 3-1 up in an amazing six minute second-half spree that seemed certain to defer the title issue until next week. But then they tossed their slender hopes away with an own-goal in the 79th minute and finally drew a demoralising 3-3 after Norwich equalised with seven minutes left. The score left Liverpool, who clinched their match with a second-half penalty from England winger and player of the year John Barnes, an unassailable four points ahead.

Australia beats China

SYDNEY (R) — Forward Jackie Pereira scored a hat-trick to pilot Olympic gold medalists Australia to a 3-0 win over China on the opening day of the women's World Cup Hockey Tournament Wednesday. The Netherlands, seeded third behind the home side, began their title defence in unimpressive fashion, beating last-minute entry the United States 3-0 thanks to two goals from short corners and one from a penalty stroke. South Korea, silver medalists in Seoul and in pool B along with the Dutch, thrashed Spain 7-0 after scoring four goals in 13 minutes in the first half against a panicky Spanish defence. The Australians, who had never seen the Chinese play before Wednesday, started slowly before Pereira weaved through the defence to score at the near post in the 24th minute. Australia never hit top gear but Pereira was in tremendous form, netting another field goal immediately after halftime and again in the 40th minute.

Argentina, Austria test Talents today

VIENNA (R) — Holders Argentina begin their World Cup countdown in earnest with a soccer friendly against Austria Thursday and all eyes on a resurgent Diego Maradona.

With just over one month to go before Argentina open the tournament in Italy on June 8, Thursday's match in Vienna will be coach Carlos Bilardo's first chance in five months to field an authentic squad from players scattered across Europe. The key to their chances of retaining the trophy they won in 1986 will be the mercurial Maradona, slimmed down but swelled by his success Sunday in steering Italian club Napoli to their second league title.

"With him in this form we can win the World Cup again," Bilardo enthused after Maradona's sparkling display in Sunday's 1-0 league win against Lazio. "It's hard to say whether Diego is in better form now than when we won the cup in Mexico but I'm sure he's at least at the same level," he noted. Bilardo has been unable to summon a solid squad since a tedious 0-0 draw against World Cup hosts Italy last December because so many of his players had European club commitments. But his 22-man selection for the friendly against fellow finalists Austria will include nine of the team that played in the World Cup final against West Germany in Mexico. Among them is Jorge Valdano, summoned out of retirement by Bilardo for Italy, through a knee injury in training has put a question mark over the veteran striker.

Eddery poised for 1st 1000 Guineas success

NEWMARKET, England (Agencies) — Champion jockey Pat Eddery, fresh from riding five winners in succession Tuesday, is poised to capture the English 1,000 Guineas horse race for the first time in his career Thursday.

The Irishman has won virtually every major race in Europe, but the 1,000 Guineas, the first classic of the flat racing season, has always eluded him.

The grey filly Negligent, trained by Barry Hills, can remedy that despite stiff opposition in the one mile (1.6 kilometre) event.

Hills is bidding to repeat his feat of 1978 when he sent out 35-1 outsider Enstone Spark to win without the benefit of a previous outing that season.

This time his claims are much stronger. Negligent was winter favourite for the Guineas after her two-year-old exploits.

Training rumours prompted a drift in price to 6-1, but Negligent is said to have been working well at home recently and an exercise spin round Newbury racecourse two weeks ago has sharpened her up.

Negligent's classic potential is based on her victory in last year's Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket, a race which produced the 1989 1,000 Guineas winner Musical Bliss.

She slammed a good field, drawing away from her rivals to beat Fearless Revival by five lengths.

The clear danger is the 11-8 favourite Salsabil, trained by John Dunlop and ridden by veteran Willie Carson.

Salsabil sprang a minor surprise in France last October to win a top two-year-old race, the Prix Marcel Bouscat. On her reappearance this year she was an easy six lengths winner of the Newbury Fred Darling Stakes, invariably a reliable classic guide.

Second favourite heart of joy (3-1) was a narrow winner of another classic trial, the Nell Gwyn Stakes, here last month.

Trainer Michael Stoute and jockey Walter Swinburn won last year's Guineas with Musical Bliss and a repeat is not out of the question.

The Nell Gwyn was a finish of short heads with Heart of Joy shading in the Groove and Hasbah, who both run Thursday.

In the Groove (8-1) is trained by David Elsworth, the man associated with Desert Orchid in the jump racing season, American ex-champion Steve Caution rides.

Hasbah (also 8-1), is a strong second string for Hamdan Al Maktoum, who also owns Salsabil. The filly will be ridden by Richard Hills, son of trainer Barry.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Thirty Six Red is the name of the horse that, according to trainer Nick Zito, will win the Kentucky Derby. Zito trains the horse.

Virtually unknown a month ago, the son of Slew O' Gold won the Gotham April 7, then the Wood Memorial April 21 at Aqueduct, and here he is now, a prime contender for Saturday's 116th Kentucky Derby.

"If he was a human being, I'd say he wants this one real bad," Zito said. "Yesterday at feed time, he was bucking and kicking and squealing. He really likes it down here. He can hear the crowds from the stall, he can hear the other horses. His ears were pricking up all day long."

If he was a human being, Thirty Six Red would have grown up on the streets of New York, like his trainer, instead of among the white rail fences of Kentucky. He would be a real tough kid.

That's the way he races. "He's a street fighter, and he's going to give them all they can take," Zito said.

In the wood, for example, Thirty Six Red took the lead from Burnt Hills going into the final turn, lost it almost immediately, then got it back in the upper stretch. The two raced a head apart to the finish line.

"People always wonder if his last race didn't take too much out of him," Zito said. "But that's the way it always is with him. I keep thinking about that, but he just keeps coming."

Thirty Six Red and Arkansas derby winner Silver Ending are considered the two primary threats to the two favourites, Santa Anita derby winner Mister Frisky and Blue Grass winner Summer Squall.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH  
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 954 76 ♠ AQ1082 ♦ K573 ♣ 1098765432  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?  
A.—Don't count your singleton in partner's suit as 2 distributional points, which would merit a response at the two-level. The hand is a possible misfit, so you want to keep the bidding as low as possible. Bid one spade. On a good day, partner will rebid in a minor.
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ K83 ♠ A7863 ♠ A ♦ K732 ♣ 1098765432  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—We are not among those who suppose that you must have four-card support to raise partner's club level — major suit response. However, your hand, with all its prime cards and singleton in too good for a mere two spades. Bid two clubs, with the intention of raising spades at your next turn—if you get one-to show better-than-minimum support.
- Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ AQJ754 ♠ Q432 ♠ 94 ♠ 2  
In first seat, what action do you take?  
A.—Your hand is worth several tricks—in spades and one in hearts. According to the Rule of Two and Three, that makes it worth an opening bid of four spades. We see no reason to take any other action.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ J53 ♠ 9872 ♠ Q7 ♦ KQ75 ♣ 1098765432  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
2 ♠ Pass Pass Pass Dbl  
Pass ?  
What action do you take?  
A.—North might or might not have a club suit for his double, but the one suit he must have for a takeout double of a major is the other major. Therefore, bid three hearts despite the discrepancy of strength in the two suits.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 8632 ♠ A5 ♦ AQ10 ♠ J652 ♣ 1098765432  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?  
A.—If you play limit raises, this is the hand for three spades. If your jump raises are forcing, however, you have something of a problem. You have to respond two clubs now, then support spades at your next turn. How awkward!
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ AJ54 ♠ AKQ82 ♠ Void ♦ KJ75 ♣ 1098765432  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?  
A.—The fact that you are three-suited with a void in opener's suit makes your hand unsuitable for a jump shift—you might need all the room you can muster to describe your hand. Start with one heart. Partner's rebid will determine your next action.

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## Militants shown training in Pakistan

## India rejects Pakistani proposal over Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Wednesday it had rejected a Pakistani proposal that neutral observers investigate charges that Islamabad backs Muslim Kashmiris fighting New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told parliament he had turned down the proposal, which he called "the blatantly propagandistic suggestion" by his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during talks in New York on April 25.

Indian charges, which Gujral repeated yet again, that Pakistan arms and trains the Kashmiri rebels have led to heated exchanges and fears of a fourth war between the two countries. Two of their three wars were over disputed Kashmir.

Gujral also repeated India's demand that "if Pakistan indeed sought peace and friendship, it must take tangible and credible measures to withdraw support to terrorism and desist from intervention in our internal affairs."

But, in a relatively mild statement, he did not repeat a warning issued Saturday that India would do anything necessary to prevent infiltration of rebels and arms into the Kashmir Valley from the one-third of the Himalayan region Islamabad rules.

Saturday's statement, which refused to rule out military action, made plain that India regarded Pakistani action to prevent such infiltration as the crucial test of its intent.

Gujral said Yaqub Khan had suggested the United Nations or another outside agency investigate India's charges that Pakistan armed and trained the rebels, whose campaign has cost more than 300 lives so far this year.

"He should know that no international agency could effectively monitor clandestine assistance to terrorists," Gujral said.

Pakistan says India's refusal to allow Kashmiris to decide their own future in a plebiscite, first mandated by U.N. resolutions more than 40 years ago, and years of neglect was responsible for the revolt in Indian Kashmir.

India says the 1970 Simla Agreement, under which the two countries agreed to resolve their differences over Kashmir in bilateral talks, superseded the U.N. resolutions.

"Both countries had consciously agreed on the irrelevance and redundancy of third party involvement in bilateral relations in the Simla Agreement," Gujral said.

He said that made the Pakistani idea of a neutral investigation "neither helpful nor feasible."

Kashmiri militants in Azad (free) Kashmir, as the Islamabad-controlled portion is known in Pakistan, admit they are training but charges of direct government involvement remain unproven.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri militants, scared until now to admit they were training guerrillas inside Pakistan to fight Indian rule of their homeland, have blown away the smokescreen.

Emboldened by their growing strength and numbers, some talk freely about where they get their arms and have shown Western journalists guerrilla recruits getting basic weapons training in the section of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.

It could prove explosive for relations between India and Pakistan.

Tension between the two countries is already reaching breaking point and there are fears of war.

Pakistan denies any official involvement in the Kashmir rebellion, rejecting Indian charges that it arms and trains young Kashmiris to fight the Kashmiri Jihad.

or holy war. The largest of the militant groups, the Jamaa and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), shattered all pretence by showing a freelance photographer and a Western television crew recruits getting arms instruction in Pakistan.

The photographer was taken to a narrow, rocky valley north of Muzaffarabad, capital of Azad (free) Kashmir, to watch raw recruits in action.

"I would say there were four training, one leader who had fought with the Afghans, there was one sanny and one guy who bought the guns and ammunition," he said.

They spent four hours in the valley being taught weapons skills and firing live ammunition. Used cartridges were carefully collected, he said.

JKLF sources in Muzaffarabad said that after news of the television film spread Pakistan intelligence officials intervened and they were reluctant to repeat the exercise.

"You must understand our problem," one said. "Lots of things go on but we have to be careful."

The day before, the JKLF's Muzaffarabad chief Raja Muzaffar Khan said he believed the Kashmiri militants were becoming strong enough to stand up to the Pakistani government.

"When we were politically weak, Pakistan stopped us and put us behind bars, but now we have public pressure behind us it is very difficult for Pakistan to pressure us," he said.

At one JKLF house in the city two bullet-holed targets mounted on wooden stakes were lying on mounds of bedding for some of the thousands of young men who have trekked across the mountains to Azad Kashmir in recent weeks.



Toshiki Kaifu

## Kaifu pledges \$197m to Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Visiting Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan has pledged \$197 million in aid to Bangladesh, an official spokesman said.

The aid will be for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Kaifu, on the second leg of his five-nation Asian tour, is the first Japanese prime minister to visit Bangladesh. He met President Hussain Muhammad Ershad for 70 minutes and later formally opened a river bridge.

"My present tour is aimed at bringing about even closer ties... between the nations of South Asia endeavouring as they are to develop and grow," Kaifu said in a speech at a banquet given in his honour.

Japan, the richest nation in Asia, is the top donor to Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations.

Tokyo has given Dhaka nearly \$4 billion in aid in the past 18 years, according to Bangladesh government statistics.

Shigeo Takenaka, the chief Japanese spokesman, said the fresh commitment include \$24 million exclusively for development of the energy sector.

A senior Bangladesh official said Japan was likely to commit more aid. Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mohsin did not elaborate, but said that Japan had indicated that its aid will not be reduced.

Tokyo did not make a commitment when Bangladesh's Western donors and Japan met in Paris last month. Others at the Paris meeting pledged a total of \$1.8 billion for the coming fiscal year.

Dhaka staged a spectacular reception for Kaifu with thousands of children dancing and singing "welcome Kaifu" on the streets. Six jet fighters of the Bangladesh Air Force escorted Kaifu's DC-10 after it left Indian air space.

India was the first stop on his week-long shuttle tour which will include Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

On Tuesday, Kaifu opened a highway bridge financed primarily by Japan across the Meghna River near Dhaka.

## Hungarian parliament elects writer as interim president

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary's New Democratic Parliament Wednesday chose as interim president a liberal writer jailed for six years after the anti-Soviet revolt of 1956, symbolising the country's break with its Communist past.

Arpad Goencz, 68, won election as house speaker and interim president after Hungary's rival main parties, the center-right Hungarian Democratic Forum and the liberal League of Free Democrats forged a surprise agreement to nominate him.

With the Forum controlling 164 seats and the Free Democrats 94 in the new parliament, Goencz, a Free Democrat, was assured of a majority.

But he needed backing from deputies of other parties to get the two-thirds majority needed to

win elections as interim president in the 394-seat legislature.

When the vote was announced after a secret ballot, Goencz was elected with 339 of the 370 valid votes cast.

"I know that confidence cannot be returned, only lost," Goencz said in a brief thank-you address to Hungary's first democratic parliament in more than 40 years.

Goencz replaces Interim President Matyas Szurocs, a member of the Socialist Party that was formed after the old Communist Party dissolved. The Socialists ruled until they were defeated in free elections in March and April.

In another conciliatory gesture between all parties, Szurocs was elected one of three deputy speakers.

Historian Gyorgy Szabad, 66

and a founding member of the Forum, was elected Goencz's chief deputy with 348 of 370 ballots cast.

Goencz, a lawyer who entered politics after World War II as a member of the then-dominant Smallholders' Party, has headed the Hungarian Writers' Union since last December.

He spent six years in jail after the 1956 revolt in Hungary against Stalinism and rule from Moscow. He won a reprieve on his life sentence in a general amnesty granted in 1963.

At a news conference before the vote, Forum leader Jozsef Antall said the two rival parties also had agreed that parliament — and not the nation as a whole — would choose the country's final president.

## Rebels hit key points in San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Rebels attacked government soldiers in the capital Tuesday on the eve of talks aimed at ending the war.

Automatic weapons fire and explosions ripped through several neighbourhoods on the west and north sides of the city, including the wealthy Escalon district that was the scene of fighting during an offensive by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rebels last November.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The rebels dynamited five high voltage utility towers near the city of Chalatenango, leaving at least half of San Salvador without electricity, the privately owned radio station YSLK reported.

Rebels also attacked a plant belonging to the state power company north of the city, the radio station reported, but said it had no details.

The fighting began around 10 p.m. (0400 GMT) and continued sporadically into the pre-dawn hours Wednesday. Military helicopters could be heard buzzing overhead.

Guerrillas and government soldiers clashed near the Sheraton Hotel in Escalon and the firefight spilled over into the Tasumal neighbourhood, residents said. The guerrillas attacked a civil defence post on the south-side neighbourhood of Costa Rica and the national elections board building in Escalon, according to witnesses.

They also sprayed a police academy on the outskirts of the capital with gunfire.

The fighting erupted hours before President Alfredo Cristiani's conservative government and the guerrillas were to hold indirect preliminary talks to end the war. A representative of United Nations General Secretary Javier

Perez de Cuellar was due to arrive in El Salvador Wednesday to act as a go-between in setting up an agenda and arranging other details for the peace talks to begin.

Two attempts to negotiate an end to the war that has claimed 72,000 lives ended in deadlock in 1984 and 1985. A series of direct talks that had started shortly after Cristiani was sworn in as president last July were broken off because of the guerrillas' November offensive.

Hours before the attack, an estimated 40,000 people attended a peaceful May Day rally outside the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral. The rally was held by seven labour unions to criticise Cristiani's economic policies and to urge peace talks.

Only a few police were deployed in the area, and they did not interfere with the demonstrations.

## Hundreds of political dissidents rounded up in Burma, Amnesty says

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Amnesty International Wednesday said that hundreds and possibly thousands of political dissidents had been rounded up in Burma ahead of the May 27 election, and that torture was widespread.

"The security forces have almost unrestricted authority to make arbitrary arrests, to detain opponents or suspected critics incommunicado for months on end without either charging or trying them, and to interrogate them using torture," said Eric Sidoti, the organisation's director of communications for Australia.

"We know that hundreds of people have been detained but we believe it could be thousands," Sidoti told the Associated Press.

"People are being given three years hard labour to life just for criticising the government or undermining the military," Sidoti's comments coincided

with the simultaneous release around the world of Amnesty's report on human rights violations in Burma.

He said torture was now rife, whereas it had once been confined to areas of armed conflict. "It is widespread, standard practice and not restricted to any particular military unit," Sidoti said.

Burma's military government seized power in a September 1988 coup.

Amnesty spokeswoman Alison Tate said accurate figures on the number of political prisoners and torture victims in Burma were not available.

Amnesty was not allowed into the country to check allegations but had to rely on accounts given by refugees fleeing into Thailand.

Torture could involve any one of 15 methods, including electric shocks, being forced to squat for long periods in the position of

riding a motorcycle, hanging by the feet from a ceiling fan and walking across broken glass.

Sidoti said some prisoners were tortured simply on suspicion of being opposed to the government.

Martial law restrictions prevent full freedom of speech, assembly and freedom from arrest for political activists.

The main Burmese opposition leader, National League for Democracy General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi, has been under house arrest since July.

The daughter of Burma's independence leader, she was a leading figure in the 1988 uprising against 25 years of military rule which was crushed by the army.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans called on the Burmese government earlier this year to allow foreign observers to check on human rights during the course of the election.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mandela to visit Britain in July

LONDON (R) — African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela will visit Britain on July 3 and 4 for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, British officials said Wednesday. Mandela, freed by South Africa on Feb. 11 after 27 years in jail, was last in Britain two weeks ago to attend a rock concert in his honour but did not meet Thatcher, a strong opponent of sanctions against Pretoria. The officials said Mandela would also hold talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during his visit, which will follow an already scheduled meeting in Dublin with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey. Mandela has said he would appeal to Thatcher for tougher sanctions against apartheid when he meets her. Thatcher broke ranks with the European Community with a partial lifting of sanctions after Mandela's release.

### Von Weizsaecker in Poland

WARSAW (AP) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker arrived Wednesday for four days of talks as Poland seeks security guarantees from the two Germans before they unify. Weizsaecker, the first West German head of state to visit Poland, was greeted at Warsaw's airport by President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and other dignitaries with whom he will hold discussions. The West German president will also visit the Nazi concentration camp at Treblinka, and Gdansk, the former free city of Danzig whose small Polish garrison was shelled by the German army at the outset of World War II. Von Weizsaecker's trip marks a new stage in the centuries of complex, and often bloody, relations between the neighbouring nations. West Germany is Poland's largest Western trading partner, and its support is critical to the success of the economic and political reforms undertaken by the new non-Communist government.

### Lafontaine leaves hospital

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — Oskar Lafontaine, the West German opposition's candidate for chancellor almost killed in an assassination attempt, left hospital Wednesday with doctors recommending that he give campaigning a rest. Leaders of the Social Democratic Party have said the 46-year-old Saar state premier, stabbed in the throat at a campaign rally last week, will return to the campaign trail to lead the drive to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in December elections. But, in a report issued as Lafontaine left hospital cheered by about 150 well-wishers, doctors recommended convalescence "far away from any professional stress". As Lafontaine drove away from hospital, a scarf tucked inside his coat hid the wound that almost ended his life. The butcher's knife which doctor's assistant Adelheid Spreidel plunged into his neck just missed the carotid artery.

### \$2m worth of jewelry stolen in H. Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Four robbers, including a woman, held in a shop in downtown Hong Kong Wednesday and escaped with jewelry worth 15 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.92 million), police reported. Police said the robbers posed as customers, and then two of the men pulled out guns and threatened the shop's three women employees. They grabbed a large number of diamond necklaces and bracelets before escaping on foot, police said.

### 30 killed in China mine blast

PEKING (AP) — Thirty miners were killed and another 11 injured in a mine explosion in China's northeastern province of Heilongjiang last month, according to a Heilongjiang radio broadcast. The disaster occurred on April 15 in the Taoshan Colliery, an operation under the state-run Qitaihe mining administration bureau, the radio said. The April 16 broadcast was reported by the British Broadcasting Corp. monitoring service and seen in Peking Wednesday. It said a power outage stopped the ventilation system and led to a buildup of gas that was ignited by equipment being used in the mine. Several thousand miners are estimated to die every year in Chinese mine disasters, but the national press rarely reports on mine accidents and casualty figures are seldom published.

## Bonn: U.S. troops needed in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will suffer a sharp loss of influence in Europe if it withdraws its troops from the continent, West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has said.

Nuclear forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) should remain in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, but their numbers should be greatly reduced, he said Tuesday night.

All nuclear weapons in West Germany belong to and are controlled by the United States, though France and Britain have nuclear-armed forces elsewhere.

NATO officials might move toward replacing ground-based nuclear weapons with air-launched missiles when they meet next week in Canada, he said in a speech to the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies of the Johns Hopkins University.

Stoltenberg rejected Soviet opposition to a unified Germany remaining in NATO and said he saw hope that the Soviet Union would agree to it.

He said it was conceivable for NATO troops to be restricted to what is now West Germany after unification and that other German forces not assigned to NATO could then be present in what is now in East Germany.

"It gives me great satisfaction to add that the foreign ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary supported this position at the latest meeting of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers," Stoltenberg said. Their support might help persuade Moscow to accept German membership in NATO, he added.

Stoltenberg said the United States might be able to reduce its forces on the Central European front beyond the 195,000 troops proposed by President Bush, but Americans should maintain a substantial military presence in Europe, he said.

"In the past American cooperation and influence on European policy was helpful and in future American policy and influence in Europe can be helpful," Stoltenberg said.

Stoltenberg laughed at a suggestion that the American dominance of the security structure of NATO was an infringement on German sovereignty and thus was comforting to France.

"To avoid war between Germany and France, we don't need NATO," he said.

## U.S. urges China to cut off arms to Khmer Rouge

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it had urged China to halt or at least scale down its military aid to Khmer Rouge guerrillas fighting the Hanoi-backed government in Cambodia as part of a comprehensive settlement.

"In our high-level contacts... we have discussed with China the need to control the Khmer Rouge in the context of a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia," the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

"We have asked the Chinese to terminate their military aid to the Khmer Rouge and have urged them at a minimum to reduce the

level of such assistance," the department added.

The statement followed a published report that China, defying requests from the United States, recently sent large new shipments of weapons to the Khmer Rouge.

The New York Times, quoting unidentified U.S. government officials, said the weapons included in tanks, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft machine guns, rocket launchers and heavy artillery.

A State Department spokesman said he was not immediately able to confirm or deny the reported new Chinese weapons shipments

to the Khmer Rouge.

Former Khmer Rouge Prime Minister Pol Pot, a Chinese ally, ruled Cambodia from 1975 until 1978 when Vietnam invaded after border skirmishes. More than a million Cambodians are believed to have died during his rule, and the United States and virtually every other country has opposed any Khmer Rouge return to power.

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who made secret trips to Peking in July and December, had asked the Chinese to curtail

military support for the Khmer Rouge, the New York Times said.

Although China has been arming Pol Pot's forces for years, the discovery of new large shipments would be a setback for President George Bush's efforts to influence Chinese behaviour through the Sino-American dialogues.

While criticising China for arming the Khmer Rouge, the Times reported that administration officials were grateful to Peking for supplying arms to two allied non-Communist Cambodian guerrilla groups, which Washington supports.

## Malaysia reportedly still pushing boat people away

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has pushed more than 6,000 Vietnamese boat people away from its shores, including some 2,000 since mid-February, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

Forty-seven boats carrying 2,286 people had been turned away from Malaysia shores since the second half of February, bringing the overall total of boat people rejected to 6,067. The most recent incident was on April 22, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said the number turned away in recent weeks was the highest since May 1989, when Malaysia began rejecting boats bringing new arrivals, drawing an international outcry.

Malaysia has consistently denied the allegations. It has in turn criticised the United States and refugee groups for waging an unfair international media campaign against Malaysia, which

plays reluctant host to 20,000 boat people.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said last month that Malaysia's "push-back" policy had resulted in the deaths of four Vietnamese boat people.

Washington and human rights groups also say that Malaysia's actions contravened a Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) agreement Kuala Lumpur chaired last June to give temporary asylum to boat people before screening to separate genuine refugees from economic migrants.

The latest reports bring to 123 the number of Vietnamese boats which have been turned away from Malaysia's east coast, the diplomatic sources said.

They said Malaysia appeared anxious that no consensus had been reached on the question of repatriation among first asylum and resettlement countries and Vietnam, who last met in

January.

"The trend (of pushing away from new arrivals) has increased since mid-February. Malaysia does not want to be left behind with people who do not qualify for resettlement," a diplomatic source said.

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees official said the UNHCR has conducted "all sorts of discussions with the Malaysian government on CPA" but declined to comment on the reported rejection of newly arrived boats.

The official said about 800 boat people who arrived in Malaysia after March 14, 1989, when countries in the region stopped accepting boat people automatically, had been screened since last August to determine if they were genuine refugees.

"The Malaysian government has not yet released the findings," the official said.

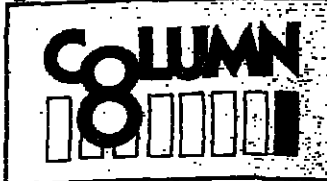
The UNHCR is also persuading the nearly 13,000 new arrivals housed on Bidong Island, off Malaysia's east coast, to voluntarily return home.

Twenty-two men, including a 65-year-old man and his grandson, left for Vietnam Wednesday, the largest group to leave Malaysia so far this year.

This brings to 79 the number who have returned voluntarily from Malaysia. UNHCR field officer Alan Vernon told reporters as they boarded a Malaysian Airlines flight for Ho Chi Minh City.

Vernon said another 95 refugees on Bidong had applied to return, pending approval by Hanoi, and about 100 others had expressed interest.

He said those returning voluntarily, who had not been screened out as economic migrants, would be given \$30 a month for a year on arrival to help them re-establish themselves.



## Former beatle receives death threats

LONDON (R) — Former Beatle George Harrison has received death threats in letters sent to his British mansion, police said. One of the anonymous letters posted to the 120-room gothic mansion west of London warned, "time you went," and another said, "goodbye George," the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

Police said they were taking the threats against the 47-year-old pop star seriously. The letters began arriving at the mansion a year ago but staff, knowing Harrison's worries about security since the murder in New York 10 years ago of Beatle John Lennon, burned them, the Daily Mirror said. In recent weeks five more letters turned up and police were called in. Harrison, part of the famous pop group that included Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and Lennon, lives at the house with his wife Olivia and son Dhani.

## Fara Fawcett rules out marriage

DENVER, Colorado (AP) — Fara Fawcett has ruled out marriage. The actress said that men do not like her independence and that longtime love Ryan O'Neal is the only man so far who has accepted it. She said O'Neal still proposes marriage, even after 10 years, but it is not for her because marriage is purely a business contract. It kills romance.

In 1977, she divorced actor Lee Majors and quit the television series Charlie's Angels. Majors was the silent type, she said in an interview Monday. "Lee didn't talk. He thought I should come home and make the dinner. And he didn't support me leaving the show," she said. At Charlie's Angels, she said, "the male producers kept patting me on the head while I was complaining that the characters had no depth." She has since starred in such acclaimed movies as "Extrimities" and "The Burning Bed."

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